# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-078
Monday
26 April 1993

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## Near East & South Asia

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## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Arab League Secretary General on Unity Efforts

*PM2604085793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Apr 93 p 7*

[Unattributed interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Although two years have passed since the Gulf crisis, the Arab situation is still going from bad to worse and joint Arab action is going through its worst phase. What have your efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere achieved?

['Abd-al-Majid] We must all admit that the Gulf crisis was a real tragedy with repercussions in all the Arab countries. It was a major, profound shock to the foundations of joint Arab action. It nearly destroyed the Arab League and its organs because it was unprecedented in inter-Arab relations. The Arab League itself has given priority to the task of rebuilding Arab solidarity and clearing the atmosphere. I have sensed in my Arab tours that there is a real desire on behalf of the Arab leaders to overcome the aftermath of the Gulf crisis and enhance all aspects of joint Arab action in the interests of the Arab peoples.

All I am trying to do now is restore the shaken confidence among the Arab states as a first step toward restoring the lost solidarity.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you not agree with me that the continuing problem of the Kuwaiti POW's and the Iraqi officials' adamant repetition of their claims against Kuwait would torpedo any attempt to revive Arab solidarity?

[Abd-al-Majid] I do not know whose interest is furthered by the continuation of the suffering of the Kuwaitis held in Iraq. Over the past two years the Arab League has made great efforts to close the POW file. It has sent envoys to Kuwait and Iraq and held direct meetings with officials from both countries. I believe that the coming period will witness the end of the POW tragedy now that Iraq has promised to facilitate the mission of Ambassador Rashid Idris, the Arab League's envoy. We really hope that there will be an end to the POW issue so that we are able to help the Iraqi people and ease their suffering.

I appeal to the Iraqi brothers to immediately drop their claims that Kuwait is part of Iraq. That was the main cause of the Arab collapse. Kuwait is an independent sovereign state and a member of the Arab League, the United Nations, and all international organizations.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Why has the Arab League not made an attempt to mediate between the Gulf states and Iraq?

['Abd-al-Majid] I frankly say that I cannot move in that direction in the current circumstances and without joint and mutual desire, but I am fully prepared to mediate between any two Arab states such as Kuwait and Iraq or Egypt and Sudan if there is an official request by any Arab side.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] To what extent are you prepared to respond to Iraq's persistent call for efforts to ease the Iraqi people's suffering?

['Abd-al-Majid] I believe that there are two aspects to the Gulf crisis, one political and the other humanitarian. The tragedy of the Kuwaiti POW's and the tragic conditions of the Iraqi people reflect the humanitarian aspect. We have made every possible effort for the release of those held in Iraq. We, Arabs, also understand the suffering of Iraqi women and children because of the shortage of food and medicine. If Western states and organizations are giving Iraq humanitarian aid, can we possibly ignore that suffering, regardless of whether we agree or disagree with the Iraqi leadership?

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Has the Arab seven-member committee scored any success in its efforts to end the crisis between Libya and the West?

['Abd-al-Majid] I can say that the efforts of some Arab leaders and the seven-member committee were behind the UN Security Council's decision to continue enforcement of resolution 748 on Libya without toughening the sanctions against the Libyan people, so as to provide more room for efforts to end the crisis peacefully. It should be noted in this connection that the seven-member committee will intensify its efforts in the next phase to promote a satisfactory and honorable solution to the Lockerbie crisis.

Here I want to commend Libya's flexible position, which has been characterized by reason, a clear understanding of the dimensions of the crisis, and the desire to cooperate with the United Nations and the parties concerned to arrive at the truth. I believe that there is a chance to implement UN Security Council resolution 731 without prejudice to Libyan sovereignty.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Why have the Arab states abandoned their commitments to Lebanon at this point? What part is the Arab League playing to put an end to the Israeli troublemaking in the south of Lebanon?

['Abd-al-Majid] As far as the fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon is concerned, there is a sincere Arab desire to set up such a fund, but the Gulf crisis has resulted in a reordering of the Arab states' priorities. I emphasize, nonetheless, that some brothers in several Gulf states have recently promised to give every possible aid to Lebanon to help it rebuild its institutions and infrastructure devastated by 17 years of continuous civil war.

As regards the Israeli practices in southern Lebanon, there have been numerous contacts with the leaders of the Western states, especially French President Francois

Mitterrand, to persuade them to put pressure on Israel to stop its aggression against southern Lebanon and implement resolution 425, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and the establishment of Lebanese state authority there.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Lebanon and the PLO have more than once called for an emergency Arab summit conference to consider putting the Arab house in order. Why has the Arab League not moved in that direction?

['Abd-al-Majid] First of all, the Arab League Secretariat has not received any memorandum from any Arab state calling for such a summit. My personal view is that the current circumstances are not suitable for a successful summit conference. For such a conference to succeed, it is necessary to prepare it well so as to create the right atmosphere for the participation of all the Arab leaders.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is your comment on Rabin's declaration that he accepts Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for the Arab-Israeli negotiations?

['Abd-al-Majid] That statement was a positive step in the right direction, but we hope Israel will translate that into tangible reality. The two resolutions state clearly that the seizure of territory by force is inadmissible and call for the withdrawal of Israel from all the territories occupied since 1967, including the Golan and Arab Jerusalem.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Israel is currently trying to give world public opinion the impression that the Arabs are not serious about the peace process. How can we respond to such Israeli claims?

['Abd-al-Majid] I strongly disagree with that view. The entire international community is fully aware of the Arab states' collective interest in a peace based on international legitimacy, and that if the specter of failure keeps haunting the Arab-Israeli negotiations, then Israel is the party responsible for that because of its intransigence, repressive practices, fabrication of the deportees issue, and denial of UN resolutions.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you believe that the Somali crisis has exposed the Arab League's inability to play an effective part in ending any Arab problem?

['Abd-al-Majid] Why this unfair criticism of the Arab League? The Arab League acted as soon as the Somali tragedy was initiated by the power struggle among the Somali factions. The warlords did not respond to the League's call to sit down together at the Arab League's headquarters, as the house of the Arabs, to negotiate and reach agreement that would end the Somali people's tragedy. We were surprised to see these warlords embrace at the U.S. Embassy in Mogadishu. At any rate, we hope the Somalis will turn a new leaf and revive the state's institutions and departments. The Arab League will never abandon its duty to the Somali people. Most governments are willing to provide all possible aid to the Somalis.

### Bureau Governing Boycott of Israel Opens Meeting

*JN2504075793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] The Arab Bureau for Boycotting Israel began its 66th conference in Damascus yesterday with 11 Arab countries and the PLO in attendance. Zuhayr 'Aqil, commissioner general of the bureau, praised the participation of four Gulf countries—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates. 'Aqil said this participation refutes reports that these four countries had asked for the termination of the Arabs boycott of Israel. He affirmed that none of these countries' representatives has submitted such a proposal.

## Islamic Affairs

### ICO Foreign Ministers Hold 21st Session in Karachi

#### Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Arrives

*BK2304033093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Text] Bangladeshi Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman arrived in Karachi last night to attend the Islamic foreign ministers conference. The five-day conference is to begin in Karachi on 25 April.

#### Bosnia, Cameroon Ministers Arrive

*BK2304093693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Text] A four-member delegation of Bosnia-Herzegovina led by Foreign Minister Mr. Haris Silajdzic arrived in Karachi this morning to attend the Islamic foreign ministers conference.

A three-member delegation of Cameroon, led by the minister of state, Mr. (Sayed Ataurrahman Izzatahmed), also arrived in Karachi to attend the conference.

The five-day conference begins on Sunday [25 April].

#### Saudi Minister Arrives, Comments

*LD2404215193 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, arrived in Karachi this evening at the head of the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which will participate in the 21st meeting of the foreign ministers of the members states of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] due to open tomorrow, Sunday. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Your Higness, could you say a word to our station on the occasion of the forthcoming foreign ministers conference? What are the most prominent topics to be discussed at the conference?

[Al-Faysal] As a matter of fact, the conference comes at a critical time for important and urgent issues as far as the Islamic world is concerned. One such issue is the Palestinian question. There is just as much optimism over the continuation of the negotiations or their resumption as there is concern over whether those negotiations are going to make a quantum leap at this time or whether they will revert to the vicious circle in which they revolved in the past. Therefore, we hope that the main issues will be tackled, namely the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 348 and 338 and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. We also hope that this will coincide with a systematic change in the way Israel deals with the negotiations and that the latter will remove obstacles, either by repatriating the deportees or by waiving what is called the iron-fist policy in the occupied territories.

Another sensitive topic is Bosnia-Herzegovina. We can see that the Serbian policies of aggression and ethnic cleansing continue unabated. We therefore hope that the conference will take stances to lend support to Bosnia-Herzegovina, politically and materially, on the one hand, and to call on the international community to deal with the issue not as a crisis but with a view to bringing to an end the policies of ethnic cleansing and aggression which the Serbs pursue in Bosnia-Herzegovina, on the other.

In this context, there are the resolutions of the Jeddah conference which convened in extraordinary session. We hope that the stance adopted there will be profited from, particularly in assisting Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

The support of the custodian of the two holy mosques for our brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina will continue. We hope that the conference and the convening countries will lend an ear to the brothers and will assist them materially and politically.

One last point which will no doubt be raised, in addition to other Islamic issues, is the topic of Somalia and the state of affairs there. Within that framework, there is also optimism over the latest agreements concluded among the Somali brothers. We hope they will lead to the rise of a Somali state so that the conditions of the Somali brothers can be dealt with by Somalis.

There are many other issues which we hope will receive their share of attention at the conference and which will solicit their share of resolutions leading to the remedy of the Islamic situation at large.

[Reporter] Thank you. May God give you long life. [end recording]

## Mazari Opens Conference

*BK2504121393 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 0532 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Inaugural speech by Pakistani Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari at the 21st conference of foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization held at Sheraton Hotel in Karachi—live]

[Text] Your Highnesses, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: Al-salamu alaikum [peace be upon you].

Pakistan is proud and honored to host the 21st conference of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. I welcome you most cordially to Karachi, the city which gave birth to the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam [the great leader] Mohammad Ali Jinnah. We are happy to have in our midst our brothers from the neighboring countries of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. We are also gratified that Albania is present among us today as a new member of our organization. [applause]

Excellencies, brothers and sisters, I assumed office a few days ago as the head of a caretaker government which will oversee the elections to be held on 14th of July this year. My government will continue to abide by all its international obligations and commitments. In particular, we shall work wholeheartedly to promote cooperation and solidarity among the Islamic countries. By choosing Pakistan as the venue for this conference of Islamic foreign ministers you have bestowed an honor on our country—Pakistan. We consider this as a tribute to Pakistan's commitment toward the realization of unity and solidarity among the Islamic countries.

Excellencies, our organization embodies the aspiration of our people for enhancing our political, economic, and cultural relations. While the ICO has made a commendable contribution toward the fulfillment of these goals, much more needs to be done by the organization to promote greater cooperation and understanding among the Muslim countries. The Islamic countries are blessed with enormous resources, both human and material. We have however yet to harness this vast potential for the progress and advancement of our people. We must, therefore, strive to reinforce the common ties that bind us. This will enable us to meet the manifold challenges confronting the Islamic world. Had we been able to build a structure of meaningful cooperation, we would not, perhaps, have been faced with unfolding tragedies in Palestine, Kashmir, Bosnia, Azerbaijan, and elsewhere. A heavy responsibility, therefore, rests on this conference to project to the world the sufferings and injustices being perpetuated on the Muslim people. It is the need of our time that an effective response must be devised to address the immense problems with which we are faced.

Excellencies, the continuing denial of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people remains a central preoccupation for the Islamic countries. It is our conviction that peace will be restored in the Middle East once there is an agreement on two points. First, to fully implement Resolutions 242 and 338 of the Security Council related to Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including al-Quds al-Sharif [Jerusalem]; and second, to allow the Palestinian people to exercise their national

aspirations. It is most unfortunate that the progress which was anticipated in the peace process has been impeded by the unjustified deportation of over 400 Palestinians by Israel. We hope that the resumed peace process will be successful in attaining the goal of durable peace and security in the Middle East.

Excellencies, it is unfortunate that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have also been denied their right of self-determination as promised to them by the United Nations Security Council 45 years ago. After enduring decades of Indian oppression, the people of the held Kashmir were compelled to launch a popular movement in January 1990 to demand their right of self-determination. India, instead of fulfilling its international obligations, regrettably resorted to a campaign of brutal suppression of the Kashmiris and is continuing to commit large-scale and systematic violation of human rights in Kashmir. Massive atrocities are being perpetuated by half a million Indian troops on innocent men, women, and children in Kashmir.

Excellencies, according to authentic and well-documented reports by leading international and Indian human rights organizations, over 10,000 Kashmiris have so far been massacred by the Indian forces. And the Kashmir Valley is being subjected to indiscriminate killings, widespread rape and wanton destruction of property. But this unending oppression has failed to break the will of the Kashmiri people for liberation from the Indian illegal occupation.

Both the 19th and 20th Islamic conference of foreign ministers adopted resolutions calling upon India and Pakistan to seek a peaceful settlement of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and as agreed upon in the Simla Agreement. At the 20th Islamic conference of foreign ministers, the massive violation of human rights of the Kashmiri people were also condemned. The conference called for the respect of their human rights, including their right of self-determination. The conference offered to send a good-office mission led by its chairman to ease the tension between Pakistan and India and to promote a peaceful settlement. In addition, the conference requested the ICO secretary general to constitute a three-member fact-finding mission to visit Jammu and Kashmir and submit its report to him. India had refused to receive either of the two missions, thus frustrating the mandate of the 20th Islamic conference of foreign ministers held in Istanbul in July 1991. This conference, I am confident, will adopt resolutions on resolute steps to condemn India's violation of human rights in Kashmir and uphold the Kashmiri right of self-determination. Therefore, it is important for this conference to reaffirm that the solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute should be on the basis of the UN Security Council resolutions and in the spirit of the Simla Agreement.

Excellencies, the Serbian aggression and atrocities against the helpless people of Bosnia is truly tragic. The barbarities being committed by the Serbs on the peaceful people of Bosnia are indeed very shameful. It is regrettable that action against the Serbs has been resisted by some states on the ground that this would prejudice the peace talks. At Pakistan's initiative and strongly supported by some nonaligned members, the Security Council recently adopted a resolution imposing large sanctions against Serbia. This conference must act boldly to save the Bosnian Muslims from the genocide to which they are being subjected. Our decisions must seek to lift the unjust arms embargo against Bosnia and place all Serbian heavy weapons under UN control, (?effectively rescind) arms supply to the Serbs, and enforce the no-fly zone in Bosnia. Finally, I sincerely hope that the Karachi conference will respond with generosity to the critical material needs of our suffering brothers and sisters in Bosnia.

Excellencies, we are concerned that Armenia has launched an unprovoked attack against Azerbaijan. This has caused considerable suffering and loss of life. This conference must strongly condemn this attack and call for withdrawal by foreign forces from all the territories of Azerbaijan that they have occupied by force. We must also uphold the unity and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, including the region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

In Cyprus, we support the establishment of a bizonal, bicommunal federal structure based on the equality of the Turkish and Greek communities inhabiting the island. Any solution which is not consonant with these mutually agreed principles will not be enduring.

Excellencies, although the challenges we confront are daunting, we must not lose confidence in our collective ability to respond to them with the support of almighty Allah. We have witnessed in Afghanistan that courage, faith, and determination can triumph over overwhelming military might. The Islamic countries extended renewed support to the Afghan mojahedin throughout the prolonged period of this heroic struggle for freedom. We must now support their efforts for peace and reconstruction. I hope that this conference will endorse the arrangement for a peaceful political transition in Afghanistan as agreed upon by the Afghan leaders. It is also essential for us to consider and approve a specific plan to provide assistance to Afghanistan for emergency relief and rehabilitation.

Excellencies, during the Afghan jihad, nationals of other Islamic countries also participated side by side with the Afghan mojahedin. Now that the jihad has successfully concluded, Pakistan has urged them to return to their homes, as their presence in our country is no longer necessary. Pakistan cannot allow its territory to be used for any undesirable activities against any other state.

Excellencies, I urge this conference to condemn strongly all forms of terrorism. Terrorism violates the fundamental principles and spirit of Islam as it targets innocent men, women, and children. Terrorism—whether it is perpetrated by an individual or an organization or a

state must be condemned without reservation or ambiguity. My country, which has been a victim of international terrorism for more than a decade, is deeply concerned at the upsurge of terrorist actions in different parts of the world. The government of Pakistan is committed to combating international terrorism whenever and wherever it occurs.

Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen, there are over 300 million Muslims who live in non-Muslim countries. Many Muslim minorities face discrimination. Often their basic human rights are violated and their places of worship desecrated. This conference should consider steps to safeguard the rights of the Muslim minorities. The ICO member states have responded vigorously to the destruction of the Babri masjid and the plight of the Indian Muslims. This conference should also consider how best it can safeguard the rights and welfare of 110 million Muslims in India.

Excellencies, at this moment when so many Muslim nations and communities are being subjected to aggression and violence, it is high time for the Islamic countries to give deep consideration and thought for the promotion of collective security of the ummah. For this purpose, we must identify the common threat to our security and solidarity. We must guard, in particular, against the virus of mutual suspicion which can be injected in our midst by our adversaries. The attainment of collective security entails a sincere effort on our part to overcome our mutual differences to resolve outstanding disputes. I hope that sincere consideration will be given to evolving some practical modalities for the settlement of disputes among ICO countries. We should also adopt a common position on arms control, disarmament, and security issues in response to the new global realities. The Karachi conference should endorse the regional approach to arms control and nuclear nonproliferation, especially the creation of nuclear-weapons free zone in Middle East, Africa, and South Asia.

Excellencies, this conference offers an important opportunity to consider ways and means to advance the goal of economic development and mutually beneficial cooperation between our countries which are committed to the realization of Islamic common market. This should be achieved in a constant step-by-step process. We should ensure the implementation of the decisions adopted on various mechanisms for cooperation such as multilateral trading union, a trade information network, and a longer-term trade financing system. The Islamic Development Bank is a proven and effective instrument of mutual cooperation. We hope that the Bank's resources will be sustantially increased enabling it to undertake a comprehensive development program in the ICO countries. Many Islamic countries face severe economic difficulties. This conference should adopt a program designed to eliminate poverty, hunger, and malnutrition in the Islamic world within the next 10 years.

Excellencies, the agenda for the conference contains proposals for enhancing the welfare of the Islamic fraternity of nations. We live in a harsh and cruel world which requires us to fashion a collective and coherent response to the issues that I have mentioned. Let it not be said that the Islamic world could not mobilize its resources for the uplift and betterment of the Muslim people throughout the world. Excellencies, the Islamic Conference Organization represents one-fifth of humanity and three continents and different races. We are fused into one ummah with eternal values and precepts of our common faith. This organization is an instrument for peace and progress. It is a modality of enhancing our unity and cooperation. Without unity, we cannot emerge as a force for stable and constructive change. Let us, therefore, transform this session into one which will help us realize the theme of our conference—Islamic unity and cooperation for peace, justice, and progress. I wish you success in your important endevors. May almighty Allah guide us in our deliberations. Amen. I thank you gentlemen. [Applause].

### Iran's Velayati Discusses Bosnia

*LD2504101093 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Karachi, April 25, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati of the Islamic Republic of Iran says the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC, ICO] has not taken effective steps to resolve the ongoing genocide of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Velayati who is here to attend the 21st Islamic foreign ministers conference, told IRNA that if the OIC fails to stop the Serbs crimes in Bosnia, it will come under pressure from the world Muslims. The foreign minister said the OIC had taken some action in dealing with the Bosnian tragedy but believed that it was not enough.

The ministerial conference opened here at Sheraton Hotel with the inauguration speech of the Pakistani Prime Minister Balakh Sher Mazari.

On the west's resort to 'human rights' as a political lever against Islamic states, Velayati said the west looked at the issue from its own window and according to the values prevailing in the western community. But human rights from the Islamic perspective is quite different, he said, adding that the west wanted to impose its own values on Islamic states.

An Iranian proposal on coordination among Islamic states in the field of human rights was adopted to be included in the agenda of the OIC meet on Saturday's [24 April] senior officials session.

Velayati said Muslim nations wanted the human rights issue be taken up within the framework of Islamic principles and values. "If we adopt a united stance in this regard at the OIC meet, we (Islamic states) will be able to coordinate our action in the forthcoming human rights conference to be held in Vienna in two months," he stressed.

### Bosnia's Silajdzic Appeals for Arms

*BK2504112893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1037 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[By Mike Gonzalez]

[Text] Karachi, April 25 (AFP)—Bosnia's foreign minister launched an emotional appeal for international help here Sunday [25 April], saying Moslems in his Balkan nation needed weapons to stop the ongoing genocide of their community.

"We don't want humanitarian aid, we want weapons," Haris Silajdzic told journalists mobbing him at the Karachi hotel where a meeting of foreign ministers of the Organizaton of the Islamic Conference (OIC) got under way.

"Feeding a man who is only to be killed is cynical ... We would like this conference to encourage the United States in the effort to stop the aggression," he said.

Silajdzic called for the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnian Moslems, saying it was both "illegal and immoral."

"After one year of this genocide in Bosnia, the result is 200,000 people dead. There's no justification for saying 'no arms no killing.' There will be more killing of innocent people.

"We want the international community to realize that there is a genocide in Bosnia, that we are not ready to lie down and die quietly, they must act, send military aid," he said.

Silajdzic, who has only observer status at the conference, spoke as new, grisly evidence of massacres of Moslems in the former Yugoslav republic was splashed on television throughout the world.

The latest massacre has been blamed on Croatians, though the Moslems have been mostly fighting fellow Slavic but Orthodox Christian Serbs.

"It's enough. One year of genocide is enough. We want the weapons to defend ourselves, and the international community is obviously not ready to act," he said.

He warned the west that "hundreds of millions of Moslems are taking a look at this situation and drawing inevitable conclusions. Those who are afraid of Islamic radicalism should know that they are actually feeding it through the guns of Serbia into Bosnia."

Silajdzic said Bosnia had accepted the peace plan drafted by negotiators Cyrus Vance and Lord David Owens even though "it has many flaws."

"We have done what was asked of us. Now the problem is we don't see action from the international community. We consider our right for self defense not open for discussion," he added.

Of U.S. and other plans to send food to Bosnians, Silajdzic said grimly: "There's no point feeding people to be killed, slaughtered like animals—because people in Bosnia are not only killed, they are slaughtered like animals."

"If the international community is prepared to stop the aggression itself, we prefer that, but it's been now one year and they still want to go on negotiating. We are not ready to negotiate to the last Bosnian."

Silajdzic said the rump state of Yugoslavia, made up of Serbia and Montenegro, was sending Bosnian Serbs "not only arms but soldiers. It's a full-fledged blatant, open aggression."

The issue, he said, boiled down to "the question of the morality of the international community, should they allow the genocide to go on.

### GCC Foreign Ministers Meet

*LD2504143793 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states held a meeting this morning before the convening of the opening session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] ministerial conference in Karachi. His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, attended the meeting, during which the agenda of the conference was discussed and points of view on all the topics were reviewed.

### Syrian Minister Meets Saudi, UAE Counterparts

*JN2504155393 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Karachi, 25 Apr (SANA)—On the sidelines of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers' conference currently under way in Karachi, [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met today with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Talks during the meeting dealt with a host of issues appearing on the conference agenda, as well as issues of mutual concern.

Al-Shar' also met with Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid, minister of state for foreign affairs in the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. Talks during the meeting dealt with the situation in the Gulf region and issues listed on the ICO conference agenda. The talks also touched upon the upcoming meeting of foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatory states, due to be held in Abu Dhabi.

### Turkish Foreign Minister Speaks

*TA2504171793 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1440 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Karachi, April 25 (AA)—Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin on Sunday said that the international

community should take the same stand towards Bosnia-Herzegovina and Azerbaijan as they have during Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, adding it was not achieved until this day.

He was addressing the 21st foreign ministers meeting of member countries to the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) which started in Karachi.

Cetin expressed satisfaction upon the latest membership to the OIC of Albania, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

He said important developments took place in the world during his OIC term presidency and that a new stage started following the disintegration of the former Soviet republics.

He said the 21st meeting comes at a critical time when Russia, Caucasus, the Balkans, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Central Asian Republics are all going through a transitional stage.

On the Cyprus issue he said an important stage was reached, stressing the importance of the OIC's support and solidarity, expressing hope that it will continue.

He said organizations like the United Nations were reorganized after the end of the cold war and that the OIC should not stay behind in this matter.

On the Middle East peace process which was started in Madrid in 1991, Cetin said it constitutes an important and necessary diplomatic step to reach a lasting and just solution for the conflict in the region.

In Somalia, Cetin said the OIC should be more active, expressing hope that a common attitude will be taken by the organization in this matter.

### Iranian, Bosnian Ministers Speak

*BK2504165693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] The ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers conference today started general debate on various major issues confronting the Islamic ummah. The conference spokesman told newsmen this evening that the conference adopted the agenda formulated by senior officials without any substantive change.

Speaking in the first plenary session, the Bosnian foreign minister made an impassioned appeal to the Islamic countries to come to the aid of his country with all types of assistance. He said during the past one year, when Serbia started aggression, 300,000 Bosnian Muslims have been killed and 100,000 displaced. He said even children have not been spared and 14,000 of them have been massacred. He thanked Pakistan for the help provided by it to his country. He also thanked the ICO secretary general and other member states for the help extended by them. He called for tightest economic sanctions to be imposed on Serbia.

In his speech, the Iranian foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, urged the Security Council to take without further delay all necessary steps to remedy the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and punish the aggressor. He said the ICO should stress the need in providing all types of assistance to the besieged Muslims there. The Iranian foreign minister also referred to the continuation of bloodshed in Kashmir as a source of grave concern to the ICO. He appealed to the ICO foreign ministers to take effective measures to alleviate the sufferings of their brethren in Kashmir, Tajikistan, and Azerbaijan. He also referred to the destruction and desecration of Babri Masjid by Hindu extremists and threat against other mosques in India. He urged the ICO countries to take strong notice of the situation.

The prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, today separately received the foreign ministers of Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Iran at the chief minister's house in Karachi. During the meeting with Mr. Hikmet Cetin of Turkey, measures for further bilateral cooperation, particularly in the economic field, were discussed. The Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, felicitated the prime minister on holding the 21st session of the ICO foreign ministers conference successfully. The Iranian foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, during the meeting with the prime minister expressed the hope that friendly and cordial relations between the two countries would continue to strengthen to the mutual benefit of both sides.

### More on Velayati Comments

*LD2504204993 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Karachi, April 25, IRNA—The Iranian foreign minister today dwelt on the "enormous pain and suffering" being inflicted on Muslims worldwide and said "lack of any enforcement mechanism" within the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has "eroded its credibility" in several cases including the Bosnian crisis.

"The Islamic world, possessing the moral and material components of power, with a unified and coordinated approach, can certainly play a leading role in international developments. Disregarding this potential, and failing to realize it would entail a disastrous failure to serve the interest of over one billion Muslims around the world," 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in his address to the OIC foreign ministerial session which opened here today.

In Bosnia, he said the U.N. Security Council has "failed miserably" in discharging its duty of preserving the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a member state.

"Most recently, the Security Council succumbing to Serbian crimes in Srebenica, has mandated the United Nations forces to disarm city defenders hoping that the Serb aggressors having gained complete control over the city would allow defenseless inhibitants of the city to escape.

"We are concerned that this painful episode may portray a rather dubious and indeed dangerous scenario in which with the help of some inside the council, the Serbs through violence and crime may reach their goal of further disarming the Muslims and gain control over more cities all with the help of the United Nations.

"Today, massive aggression of Serbs and their supporters, against the tyrannized Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the unabated continuation policy and practice of ethnic cleansing, massive and systematic violation of the most basic human rights and humanitarian principles and commission of serious and grave war crimes... continue with impunity. At the same time the self-proclaimed champions of human rights in the West, by actively preventing the supply of the minimum defensive equipment to Bosnian Muslims, have created favourable conditions for imposition of unjust solutions which tend to recognize the fruits of aggression, crime and ethnic cleansing."

Velayati termed the Vance-Owen plan "much less than desirable" and calling on the Security Council to remedy the past, said "the least the council can do is to allow the victim to defend itself by exempting it from the arms embargo which has been the major reason for the military imbalance in favour of the aggressors. The council should further ensure that all assistance geared for Bosnian Government and people reach its destination."

He urged OIC states to take the lead in providing assistance to the besieged Muslims in B-H, and disclosed that "the Islamic Republic of Iran despite all difficulties has provided more than 80 million dollars in direct asistance to Bosnian people and we pledge to continue this policy."

[Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 1830 GMT adds:

"Mr. Velayati said it is necessary for the Islamic world to take a strong and firm stand against the aggression of the Zionist regime and world indifference regarding its crimes. He also warned about cultural designs against the Islamic world and called for the coordinated stance of the Islamic countries in the human rights conference in Vienna. He stressed that about one- third of all UN members belong to the Islamic Conference Organization and should therefore have a decisive role in determining global issues."]

### Jordanian Foreign Minister's Remarks

*JN2504195393 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] [Jordanian] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has called on Arab and Islamic states to work seriously to unite Arab ranks and overcome the suffocating crisis, from which the Arabs and Muslims are suffering and which has continued for longer than it should.

In statements to reporters representing international news agencies in Karachi, where he is heading Jordan's delegation to the meetings of Islamic states' foreign ministers, he said that the nation is eroding from the inside and the outside, which is a tragic reality that must not continue and which should be overcome.

Abu-Jabir added: Israel's procrastination and its rejection of the Security Council's resolutions are expected, stressing that Arab consensus to participate in the peace negotiations on 27 April came after U.S. promises and commitments to the Arabs, in general, and the Palestinians in particular. He expressed hope that the next round would be more serious and that the Arabs could achieve what they want.

Asked about the expected results of the conference in Karachi, Dr. Abu-Jabir said that it was the duty of the participants, who represent the elite of the nation's intellectuals, to work out bases for uniting the Arab position, to take even a few steps in the right direction, and to overcome their differences.

### Committee Recommends Steps on Kashmir

*BK2604032693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Apr 93*

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] fact-finding mission on Kashmir has made a number recommendations for putting an end to the Indian repression in the occupied valley and enabling the Kashmiris to realize their right to self-determination. The mission's report was distributed at the ICO foreign ministers conference in Karachi yesterday.

The report says the ICO member states should extend political, diplomatic, moral and material support to the Kashmiris for the realization of their right of self-determination. The report adds that the ICO member states should reconsider their economic and trade ties with India and should maintain relations with India on condition that it gives up its repressive policy and steps in Kashmir. The ICO member states should also consider imposing restrictions on scientific, cultural, manpower, and other exchanges with India. The member countries should take concrete steps at the UN General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Commission, and international forums and gatherings with a view to adopting appropriate and effective measures for the investigation of human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and the restoration of the inalienable rights and complete freedom of the Kashmiri people.

The report says the ICO should ask the International Red Cross Committee to send its team to occupied Kashmir with a view to extend assistance to the Kashmiris. The nongovernment organizations of the ICO member countries should also be asked to use all their resources to help the Kashmiri people on humanitarian grounds.

### Coordination Group on Bosnia Set Up

*BK2604024893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Apr 93*

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization's foreign ministers conference has begun general debate on the various issues facing the the Islamic community. A conference spokesman told newsmen last night that the conference has approved the agenda prepared by senior officials.

The conference has set up a six-member coordination group to draw up the plan to help the Bosnian people. The group led by Pakistan has already started working. Other than the secretary general of the conference, the other members of the group are Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Senegal, and Malaysia.

### Velayati Comments

*NC2604064093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Apr 93*

[Text] Foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] liaison group member countries called for greater international efforts to solve the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis and halt Serbian atrocities.

At last night's session of the liaison group member countries, which was attended by the ICO secretary general and the foreign minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, a resolution in favor of Bosnian Muslims was approved. The participants in this session, held in Karachi, Pakistan, called for the expulsion of Serbia from all international organizations and associations.

On the conclusion of the session, Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati spoke to our correspondent and said that the formulation of a system to punish Serb criminals had been incorporated into this resolution and added: This resolution stresses that a peace corridor for multilateral assistance to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina needs to be established and spells out efforts to lift the arms embargo on that republic. The liaison group has called on the ICO to extend greater assistance to Bosnian Muslims.

Dr. Velayati added: Last night, the foreign ministers of the liaison group proposed that a smaller group of ministers be set up for contacts with countries effective in the UN Security Council so that it will take more serious measures to resolve the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Continuing, Dr. Velayati said: If the Security Council does not make an appropriate decision on the implementation of approved resolutions, the Islamic countries will request the convocation of a UN General Assembly session for assessing the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue.

The liaison group includes the countries of Turkey, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Egypt.

### Bosnia's Silajdzic Interviewed

*NC2604073693 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 26 Apr 93*

[Interview with Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic, in Karachi, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given—recorded; within the "Dialogue From Afar" program]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] The tragedy the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina are going through is at the forefront of topics currently being discussed at the 21st session of the Islamic foreign ministers meeting. Our guest is Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic, who is in Karachi, Pakistan, taking part in the conference. This is the first time we have talked with him on Voice of the Arabs. Mr. Silajdzic: Welcome to Voice of the Arabs.

[Silajdzic] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] How will the tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina be examined at the 21st meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] foreign ministers?

[Silajdzic] We have had a chance to talk to the foreign ministers of the ICO member states. We reviewed the current situation in Bosnia and told them that 200,000 people have died and 1 million others have been displaced as a result of the brutal aggression by the Belgrade regime. We have just gone through one year of mass murders, mass expulsions, and so-called ethnic cleansing, while the world community has stood by and watched. Because the Bosnian Government has done everything it could and all the world community has asked it to do, and because the situation remains the same, we have asked the conference to provide the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina with arms so that we can defend ourselves, which is our natural right, in accordance with Clause 51 of the UN Charter. We also requested financial backing because the war has been going on for a full year and our economy is virtually nonexistent, there is massive destruction, displacement, etc. We asked ICO member states for financial aid.

[Al-Jundi] There is a strong demand that the ban on the export of weapons to Bosnia be lifted so the Muslim people in Bosnia-Herzegovina can defend themselves in the face of Serbian attacks.

[Silajdzic] Of course we ask the conference to urgently, immediately, lift the arms ban. Some governments are asking for the same thing, including non-Muslim countries, such as the United States. However, so far nothing has been done; the ban still exists and the aggressions continue. All the world community is doing is giving the aggressor more time and denying us the right to self-defense, which is a natural and legitimate right for people.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe an ICO call to lift the embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina would be a sufficient measure, or do you hope to see a more comprehensive international move?

[Silajdzic] The ICO decision will come out in two or three days, approximately on 29 April. We know what this one will be. However, there are important decisions being made right now. A special ICO committee will visit international capitals, particularly those of UN Security Council permanent members, to discuss related matters.

[Al-Jundi] Do you still approve of the Vance-Owen plan despite the changes that have been made?

[Silajdzic] There have been no changes. The plan still stands as it is; I know nothing about changes. We heard that Lord Owen is holding talks with the Serbian side in Belgrade, but he has not come back to us yet with any changes. No changes can be introduced without our approval.

[Al-Jundi] We heard there are changes concerning the construction of roads linking Serbian areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina with the Republic of Serbia.

[Silajdzic] These roads are necessary in any country. During the talks in New York, we agreed that such roads would be operated under UN supervision. If what is at issue is a corridor [preceding word in English] involving large areas of land to link Serbia with the western part of the country [Bosnia-Herzegovina], this would be a different matter.

[Al-Jundi] How effective do you think military intervention by the international community, particularly the United States and EC countries, would be in ending the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis?

[Silajdzic] Intervention should have taken place over a year ago. Had it happened then, we could have saved 200,000 innocent lives. Regrettably, we have not seen any intervention yet. We hope the international community will intervene. A genuine intervention has to be effective. We are defending ourselves with light weapons against tanks, planes, and artillery. Praise God, our army has been able to defend our land and liberate some of the areas occupied by the aggressor.

[Al-Jundi] Do you think the enforcement of a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina is a step toward a decisive military intervention to end the crisis?

[Silajdzic] Yes. I think this is a first step and one of psychological value, as it would remove the wall separating observation and engagement. There are reports that the United States and some European countries will strike at Serbian positions in Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, some European countries, particularly the United Kingdom and France, oppose such a measure.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you.

[Silajdzic] You are welcome.

### More Siladjzic Remarks

*LD2604124393 Tehran IRNA in English 1215 GMT 26 Apr 93*

[Text] Karachi, April 26, IRNA—Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Siladjzic says the new UN Security Council sanctions against Serbia will not be effective. "No they will not work. It is only a replacement for something that the international community should have done long ago if there is any justice in this world," Siladjzic told IRNA when he was asked what he thought of the new economic sanctions against Serbs by the UN Security Council.

He called for military intervention to stop "the fascist aggression" of the Belgrade regime in Bosnia. "Sanctions have never worked anywhere and they will surely not stop the aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina," he said, adding that "that's why especially now the Serbs have again refused to sign the peace agreement." The Bosnian foreign minister said it was now crystal clear that Serbia did not want peace but war. "Aggression is their goal, war against civilians, expelling and killing, and occupying the territory of others."

He said it was now inevitable for the international community to "give us our rights to defend ourselves." "If the international community cannot stop the Serbian aggression why should [it] stop us in using our rights for self-defence," he said.

Asked what concrete measures did he expect from the international community, the Bosnian foreign minister replied, "Air strikes on Serbian artillery positions that have killed 200,000 people and arming the Bosnians who want to fight for their country. We do not need any foreign soldiers. We can do it ourselves if we have the weapons. We do not have weapons because the international community has placed an embargo on the victim."

Siladjzic, again turning to the UN sanctions, said "to have any effect at [words indistinct] by that time we will have at least another half a million people killed."

The Bosnian foreign minister said it was amazing that especially the European countries were willing to watch the genocide without taking any action. The Bosnian foreign minister is here to attend the 21st Islamic foreign ministers conference which began its work Sunday.

## Palestinian Affairs

### Head of Peace Talks Delegation Quits, Comes Back

### 'Abd-al-Shafi Resigns

*TA2404160793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has announced that he is quitting the delegation. He relayed his decision to the other members of the delegation who are currently

gathered for consultations at the home of delegation spokesman Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi in Ramallah. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that efforts currently are under way to dissuade 'Abd-al-Shafi. One of the delegation's advisers told our correspondent that if 'Abd-al-Shafi quits, the delegation may not travel to Washington tomorrow.

### Asked Not To Quit

*NC2404185393 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Dispatch by Mahir Shalabi in Jerusalem]

[Excerpts] The ordinary Palestinian man-on-the-street has given the Palestinian decision to participate in the next round of peace talks a lukewarm reception. Palestinians are divided; some support the decision, others oppose it. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian delegation held an important meeting this evening with the attendance of all members, including Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, who is likely to continue leading the negotiating delegation to the upcoming round. This information has been stressed to MBC Television by Palestinian sources attending the meeting.

Representatives of popular organizations in Gaza and a large number of citizens asked Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi not to boycott the negotiations after reports that he intended to quit. At the same time, a group of women demonstrated outside Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi's house, demanding that the delegation withdraw completely from the talks. [passage omitted]

### Reverses Decision

*TA2404191493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks, led by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, will be leaving for Washington tomorrow. A decision to this effect was made this evening following feverish consultations held by the delegation members at Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi's home. Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, who quit the current round of talks, participated in the deliberations. At the end of the meeting he told our correspondent Moti Amir that pressure had been brought to bear on Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi to reverse his decision to quit the delegation.

Our correspondent points out that at noon today Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi informed the other members of the delegation that he is quitting and that he would not be going to Washington. After a few hours of deliberations he decided not to quit so as to uphold the unity of the delegation.

### 'Crisis Atmosphere' Detailed

*TA2504044893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] The head of the Palestinian team to the peace talks, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, will continue to lead the delegation, after he had earlier stated his desire to resign. The Palestinian negotiators are going ahead with their plans to fly to Washington today for the next round of the peace talks scheduled to begin Tuesday [27 April] in the American capital. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] There was a crisis atmosphere among the Palestinian negotiators last night. The word was Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian team to the peace talks, wanted out. He was angry that the PLO leadership decided on Palestinian participation in the next round of the talks despite the delegation's recommendation to the contrary.

What were termed intense consultations took place last night at the Ramallah home of spokesperson Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi. Afterwards, 'Abd-al-Shafi spoke in a more conciliatory tone:

['Abd-al-Shafi] We are going to go. We are going to respect the decision of our leadership, and I think it does not do any harm to test the willingness of Israel for peace in respect of the terms of reference. There is no harm to put that to the test again, and also to test the willingness of the sponsor, the American sponsor, to hold a balanced position, whether it's back to the negotiating process, a position that affirms the importance of the terms of reference—Resolution 242.

[Ze'ev] But the Palestinians are going divided. Two members of the team from the Communist party will not participate in the next round. [end recording]

## Threats, Violence Against Peace Delegation Reported

### Assassination Plans Said Uncovered

*NC2504144393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Excerpt] Tunisia, 25 Apr (MENA)—[passage omitted] Salih Ra'fat, official spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh's wing—has warned certain Palestinian opposition forces, which he described as extremists and supported by foreign quarters, against embarking on any adventures targeting the Palestinian negotiating team and the Palestinian leadership.

In a statement published in Tunisia's AL-SHURUQ newspaper today, Ra'fat said the Palestinian leadership confiscated a number of plans a few days ago to assassinate members of the Palestinian negotiating team. He added that the Palestinian leadership is following closely a plan drawn up by certain Palestinian factions and a

foreign state, which he declined to name, to train elements to assassinate members of the Palestinian leadership and negotiating team.

The Palestinian official refused to elaborate for security reasons. He reiterated that these plans will fail because the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories will foil these forces' attempts to trigger a Palestinian civil war inside the occupied homeland.

Ra'fat urged the Palestinian factions that oppose the peace process to abide by democratic traditions and abort the extremist forces' attempts, which are in line with Israel's objectives.

### Al-Husayni on Threats

*NC2504090993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has denied that the Arab countries participating in the talks have pressured the Palestinians to resume the negotiations.

In a statement to Monday's edition of ROSE AL-YUSUF weekly, al- Husayni said the recent consultations that caused a one-week delay in the start of the new round were held because of Palestinian demands that were met clearly and encouragingly. Other points, he added, received only vague responses. It was not clear whether the responses were genuine or a form of appeasement.

He noted that Palestinian participation is not prompted by pressure. Rather, it is governed by the peace process' basic principles and the fact that the United States is responsible for protecting the talks' frame of reference.

He discussed recent threats to the Palestinian delegation by other Palestinian organizations, saying: These threats will not dissuade us from pursuing the peace process.

### Hamas Rules Out Attacks

*JN2404091993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Apr 93 pp 1,5*

[BY JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has predicted "dramatic events" in the occupied territories against the background of the resumption of Middle East peace talks in Washington this week, but is ruling out violence against Palestinian negotiators as a weapon to dissuade them from going back to the peace table.

Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas' spokesman in Jordan, indicated in an interview Friday that Hamas sees the Palestinian decision to restart the talks with Israel as a major turning point in favour of the group's popularity in the occupied territories.

"A majority of the Palestinian people opposes the peace talks and this will soon be evident with dramatic events in the occupied territories in the run-up to April 27," when the talks are scheduled to begin in Washington, he said.

Asked whether such "events" would include attacks on Palestinian negotiators, Mr. Ghawshah said: "No. Hamas ideology does not go in this direction. It believes in armed struggle and attacks only against Zionism and (Israeli) soldiers and settlers within the occupied territories."

Fatah, the dominant faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is involved in a long-running race with Hamas for support in the occupied territories, issued a warning Thursday against any attacks on the Palestinian negotiators.

Israeli police said they were willing to provide bodyguards for the negotiators, but added that the delegates had their own arrangements and were not in touch with the Israeli security agencies over the issue.

Mr. Ghawshah stressed that Hamas "will use democratic means to express our opposition to the negotiations, which will only benefit the Jews.

"There will be heavy popular pressure on the negotiators as well as the (PLO) leadership in Tunis, but I cannot say how the delegation will decide—whether to attend the talks or not."

According to Mr. Ghawshah statements by the Palestinian expellees stranded in Lebanon after their expulsion by the Israeli occupation authorities last December also did not imply any threat of violence against Palestinian negotiators.

In a statement issued Wenesday, the expellees, who are accused by Israel of being mainly Hamas activists, warned the "wives and relatives of negotiators" to be prepared for "any ill that might befall their loved one."

Mr. Ghawshah sought to explain the warning as related more to the plight of the families of the expellees themselves:

"Our brethren in Marj al-Zuhur (in South Lebanon) meant that their own families, which are suffering the most (as a result of the expulsions), will lead the Palestinian expressions of protest in the occupied territories."

The Hamas official cited comments by Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the chief Palestinian negotiator, and some of the delegation members, to the effect that they were surprised by Wednesday's Arab decision to return to the talks, and said that they "reflected the Palestinian popular opposition to the negotiations."

Mr. Ghawshah's pointed refutal of threats of violence against Palestinian negotiators and repeated references to "democratic expressions" of protest as well as "popular pressure" against the PLO were the strongest signs

yet that the movement saw the peace talks as an opportunity to undermine support for the PLO in the occupied territories and present a better Hamas image to the outside world.

"We feel that the atmosphere now is more suitable than ever to serve and achieve the objectives of Hamas," he said. "At the time of the Madrid conference the Palestinians were split, say 50-50, but now the difference is much wider and the majority opposes the talks."

"We will depend on this fact to advance the aims of Hamas," he said.

Mr. Ghawshah asserted that Washington was behind "applying heavy pressure" on the PLO leadership to adopt the decision to return to the peace talks.

"Under American initiation, Syria and Egypt offered a political cover to the PLO while Saudi Arabia provided a financial cover," he said, referring to the high-level contacts between the PLO leadership and the governments of Syria and Egypt prior to Wednesday's decision and the Saudi offer to resume financial aid to the PLO and Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Notwithstanding the Syrian and Saudi as well as other Arab countries' support for the peace talks, Mr. Ghawshah said: "A majority of the Arabs and Muslims also rejects any negotiations with Israel."

### 'Uprising' Warns Negotiators

*NC2504065293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Fatah—The Uprising has warned the Palestinian delegation not to resume the settlement negotiations with Tel Aviv next Tuesday [27 April]. The movement said the agreement of the perverted leadership in Tunis and the negotiating delegation to continue the negotiations exposes the leadership's dangerous role in liquidating the Palestinian cause. It added: The decision to resume the negotiations does not represent the Palestinian people's wishes. We hold the perverted leadership fully responsible for the continued involvement in the negotiations. We also warn the negotiating delegation members and urge them to examine their conscience, fully consider the dangers of continuing the talks, and withdraw from this course of action.

### PLO Urges Palestinians To Support Delegation

*NC2404071393 Paris AFP in English 0046 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Tunis, April 24 (AFP)—The PLO on Friday [23 April] called on Palestinians living in the occupied territories to give their "total support" to the Palestinian negotiators as Arab-Israeli peace talks resume in Washington next week.

The Palestine Liberation Organization, in a statement reviewing why the Palestinian side decided to return to the talks, pointed to concessions "opening the way to a resumption of the struggle around the negotiating table."

The statement, carried in full by the Palestinian news agency WAFA, cited as "positive" and "non-negligible" gains the inclusion of Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni in the Palestinian delegation for the first time.

Israel has agreed to negotiate with him despite fears that his presence would imply that the status of annexed east Jerusalem, where he lives, was open to negotiation.

The Palestinian side had also obtained a promise to repatriate some of the Palestinians deported by Israel between 1967 and 1987 and the "activation of the return" of some 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel in December.

The PLO statement urged a strong stance against any attempts by Israel to renege on the concessions, warning that anyone who tried to sidestep the PLO would be accountable to the Palestinian people.

"The PLO considers itself the representative of all the Palestinians whether or not they approve of its policies," al- Husayni said. The PLO instructs the Palestinian delegation in the peace talks.

Two Palestinian peace delegates have said they will boycott the next round of talks in protest at the Arab decision to resume the negotiations without resolving the fate of the deportees.

Meanwhile in London King Husayn of Jordan said that Jerusalem is "far too important to hundreds of millions of people throughout the world" to be considered "the domain of one or the other of the parties concerned."

The holy city should become "the essence of peace" in the region, he said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp.

Jerusalem's Arab portion was under Jordanian control before being occupied and annexed by Israel in 1967.

The king said "hopes are high" for the ninth round of peace talks. "I hope this phase will finally see us achieve a breakthrough," he said, adding that he saw "no other alternative."

The Palestinian delegation has shown "great courage" in agreeing to participate in the talks at a time of "intolerable" conditions in the occupied territories, which remain sealed off by the Israeli authorities following violence there.

The peace talks between Israel and Jordan, the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon began in November 1991.

## Hamas Criticizes 'Deportee Deal,' Khartoum Talks

*JN2404142693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has said that it fears that the return of a number of Palestinian deportees expelled since 1967 would provoke a confrontation with Hamas inside the occupied territories. At a joint news conference held in Amman today by Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, and Ibrahim Ghawshah, the Hamas official spokesman, Nazzal alluded to questions about some of the names of the 35 deportees whom Israel agreed to return the moment the ninth round of bilateral talks begins.

For his part, Ghawshah said that the deportee deal aims to create confusion and water down and remove from the spotlight the issue of the deportees at Marj al-Zuhur.

Wondering why the issue of the deportees who have been expelled since 1967 was not discussed during the previous eight rounds of talks, Ghawshah said that the return of these deportees will help fill the vacuum created by expelling the Marj al-Zuhur deportees, and that they will present their ideas which believe in Palestinian autonomy.

Regarding Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's remarks on a meeting between the PLO leadership and Hamas in Khartoum the day after tomorrow, Ghawshah said that his movement is not prepared at present to meet with the PLO leadership unless it halts its participation in the talks. He said the aim behind revealing this meeting on the eve of the talks is a tactical and political move, making Hamas a cover for Palestinian participation in the ninth round.

Asserting that Hamas does not believe in violence or political assassination and that it instructed its cadres inside the occupied territories not to clash with the other Palestinian factions, Ghawshah wondered if the Palestinian delegation is capable of withstanding the pressure of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories. He said that the call for a general strike at the beginning of the negotiations will be a gauge of the Palestinian people's feelings about them.

## PLO Official Hails Talks Participation Decision

*PM2604154393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Apr 93 p 3*

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Abu-Mazin Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Participation Decision Very Courageous; Palestinian Position Was Foundation in Unity of Arab Move"]

[Text] Tunis—A prominent PLO official has welcomed the decision to resume the peace negotiations in Washington 27 April. He described the decision issued in Damascus last Wednesday as "very wise and courageous."

This welcome came in a statement by Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), head of the PLO Pan-Arab and International Relations department, on his assessment of the Palestinian position regarding the return to the negotiating table.

In this context Abu-Mazin said: "I am very happy with the decision made by the Palestinian leadership. It is a very wise decision, because we are going through a difficult phase. Besides, negotiations are in the interests of the Palestinian cause."

Abu-Mazin went on to say: "We must go there (to Washington) in order to listen to and discuss matters with the parties concerned. And our people should understand that political negotiations are not less than military action. Thus we must be patient and persevere to achieve our people's rights."

Abu-Mazin pointed out that the Palestinian decision was the cornerstone in the Arab decision taken in Damascus to participate in the upcoming round of negotiations. So "we are pleased because we contributed to unifying the Arab position."

The Palestinian official described international reactions to the decision on Arab participation in the ninth round of negotiations as positive and acceptable, especially what U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said at the news conference he held after the Arab ministers' final statement was announced in Damascus.

On how to tackle the position of a section of the inhabitants of the occupied territories which rejects participation in the upcoming round of negotiations, Abu-Mazin said that "I believe the Palestinian popular mood supports the Palestinian leadership's move and will understand its decision to participate in the negotiations, contrary to the predictions of those opposed to this decision."

Asked about the reasons which prompted the Palestinian leadership to agree to resume the negotiations 27 April after it was committed to linking the resumption of the negotiations with the deportees' return, Abu-Mazin said, "we did not commit ourselves to that. We just demanded guarantees for the deportees' return and other guarantees which were included in the six points. We believe that the features of these guarantees are now clear." Abu-Mazin went on: There are now serious pledges from the parties concerned to solve the problems set by the Israelis in the previous rounds of negotiation. In this context Abu-Mazin cited what Christopher said at his 21 Apr news conference. He also emphasized that the "Palestinian side is waiting for these pledges to be implemented."

Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT what the Palestinian side hopes the negotiations will achieve, he said: "We expect a new method, new ideas, and a different procedure in the upcoming negotiations. We have ideas which we will present when the negotiations begin, in order to give them impetus. And we hope the United States will fulfill its promises by becoming a full partner in the negotiations, and that the Israeli side will respond to the efforts to push the peace process forward, namely by abandoning the formalities and obstacles which they set in the previous rounds."

Concluding his statement, Abu-Mazin said that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi will head the Palestinian delegation in the upcoming round of negotiations, stressing that "there is no change in the titles or positions as a result of Faysal al-Husayn's participation, which we value highly."

## Algeria

### Assassination Attempt on Former Senior Naval Officer

*LD2404200993 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] APS reported today that it has been learned from a reliable source that there was an assassination attempt against retired Major General Kamel Abderrahim at 0755 this morning on the outskirts of the town of Rouiba, east of the capital.

The source stated out that Abderrahim was hit by bullets in the chest and stomach fired by four to six armed men. He was taken to Ain Naadja hospital afterward to receive treatment. It is worth mentioning that Maj. Gen. Abderrahim, who is 58 years old, was commander of the naval forces before he retired in 1988.

### Four Terrorists Killed in Clashes in El Harrach

*LD2504200693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Our technical team has just come back with pictures of clashes which took place in El Harrach today.

At 0700 this morning, the security forces surrounded a building in El Harrach where four terrorists were hiding out. Clashes between the security men and the terrorists lasted for about 10 hours; the result was that all the terrorists were killed. One of them was identified as the terrorist Boulembraouat Ahmed, known as Ismail, who was behind the assassination of the deceased Djillali Liabes and Hafid Senhadri. More details about this operation will be given in our forthcoming bulletins.

### Oran Court Begins Trial of 12 Alleged Conspirators

*LD2504124693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Excerpt] Oran's special court has started the trial of 12 people accused of conspiracy against state security. The Public Prosecutor's Office requested death sentences against two of the defendants who are still at large. Hassani Houari from Oran radio station has more details.

[Houari] The terrorists, who were arrested in Tlemcen Province, belong to five gangs that were active in Saida, Tlemcen, Sidi Bel Abbes, and Tiaret. The Public Prosecutor's Office which analyzed the crime requested death sentences for two people who are at large and life sentences for the leader of two groups and two other members. It also requested 20 years imprisonment for six defendants and 10 years imprisonment for two others. [passage omitted]

## Egypt

### Mubarak Sinai Liberation Anniversary Speech

*NC2404122093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1025 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak on the 11th anniversary of the liberation of Sinai, in Tabah, South Sinai Governorate—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First of all, happy anniversary. Brother citizens, humanity has long suffered the calamities of numerous wars. Millions of humanity's choicest young men who would otherwise have built human civilization fell victim to those infernos. Even children, women, and old people were not spared and the world was shaken by the horror of war.

On the 11th anniversary of the liberation of Sinai, from the land of love and peace, trodden by saints and prophets, I address a call of peace to peaceloving nations. I am full of hope and confidence that the peacemakers, people of lofty values and noble principles, will be able to safeguard peace. The permanence of human civilization lies in striving to secure man's good and peace. Egypt's people have chosen the path of peace to build a civilization and foster coexistence with other nations. Human history never mentions Egypt as an aggressor state. It has always been and will continue to be, God willing, a state of security and peace. God's messengers and prophets sought refuge in it in their search for security and peace. Hagar, the mother of Muslims, and Maria, wife of Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be with him, came from Egypt. On its land Abraham, the friend of God, and his wife Sarah lived. Moses and 'Isa [Jesus] also came to it. All those who prayed to God for security and refuge came to this land.

When Egypt was forced to fight, none could make it surrender. It defended its liberty and achieved its objectives with its people's will and its men's ability to make peace. On this occasion, brothers and sisters, I address on your behalf a greeting full of appreciation and pride to the men of our Armed Forces [applause] who, with their sacrifices and valor, opened a path to peace and who today are able to safeguard it. They raised Egypt's flag over all its territories so that the banners of security and stability could wave alongside it. A greeting full of veneration to the spirits of our pious martyrs who gave their lives so that a day would come when future generations could enjoy security and tranquility and to reap the fruits of the tree watered with their fathers' blood.

I address a greeting of veneration to the spirit of the late President Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat [applause], a leader who sought peace and was martyred in the quest for it. A greeting to all the men, women, and children of Sinai, Port Said, Ismailia, and Suez and other places who suffered but endured and contributed to the liberation of Sinai.

I extend a salutation of pride to all the great Egyptian people. They struggled for a better future for our successive generations. Today, I extend greetings of gratitude to our brothers in the Arab nation and to the friendly peoples who supported us and our endeavors to retain rights and establish peace in our region.

Brother citizens: Through a fair dialogue, we managed to open a new page in the history of mankind. We proved our ability to deal with crises in a civilized manner without relinquishing our rights. The restoration of Tabah will remain a symbol of a nation's willingness to overcome disputes and solve problems by legitimate peaceful means. We view this accomplishment as evidence that peace is a pressing desire for all mankind, and that war cannot safeguard interests or protect rights.

Peace means virtue, development, and renunciation of wars as a way for resolving disputes among nations. In addition to the destruction they cause, wars have become extremely costly. But peace requires good intentions, and people need to replace the complex of doubt and fear with confidence in a safe, bright future characterized by a just and lasting peace. In this way, humanity can open new horizons for a new stage in its history, one based on justice without hurting others.

Peace in our region has become indispensable within the serious endeavor by its people to achieve it. I believe through our role in the Arab and international arenas, we have been able to achieve successes in this field. However, the path of peace is long and difficult. Our experience says that our path to peace was never paved with roses. The peace was made through the blood of men, the determination of a people, and the souls of martyrs who are now calling upon us all to protect it. We have spared no effort in overcoming all obstacles that have blocked the march of peace in the Middle East. We held contacts with the parties to the dispute and with concerned and friendly countries. We proceeded from our belief that stability in our region would open bridges for cooperation among their peoples, removing the barrier of doubt and fear and helping in the building of a human civilization.

From this virtuous spot of Egypt's soil, I renew my call on world nations and international organizations and institutions to work to remove weapons of mass destruction and free the Middle East of them so that we can spare our people and coming generations the scourge of conflicts whose scale God alone knows.

Brothers and sisters, the international community needs to seek a new world order to eliminate all forms, camps, and alliances of the cold war and the ordeals it brought humanity. The new order should not put the interests of a people ahead of those of others and their right to their own land. World peace is a noble goal and one that is possible to achieve despite the obstacles. This prompted us to respond to the UN call to send units of our Armed Forces to participate in peacekeeping missions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, and other areas. We did this because we believe that world peace is for all peoples. This call is an indication of the world's confidence in our sincere intentions, noble goals, and in our men's ability to make sacrifices and bear hardships so that peace and security may prevail in the world. Egypt will always remain faithful to its pledge and be a state of security, safety, and faith, seeking the wellbeing of mankind and providing hope for a better future.

Brothers and sisters, at these moments I call on the nations of our region to renounce their differences. I also call on some of them not to interfere in their neighbors' internal affairs, to respect their charters and treaties, and to devote themselves to solving their people's problems before thinking of exporting terrorism to others. The evils of terrorism are no less dangerous than those of fighting and war. Every state has the right to make aggression and terrorism rebound on those who initiate them. I tell the advocates of extremist ideologies, the bearers of the hatchets of demolition: Do not be like those who demolish their homes with their own hands. Renounce ruin and destruction and come participate in construction and progress. Renounce bloodshed and forcing people from their homes and come participate in work and regrowth. Sow love and goodness in the hearts and root out rancor and hatred. I remind them of God almighty's words: Enter into Islam whole-heartedly; and follow not the footsteps of the evil one.

I would like to extend a greeting of appreciation and pride to the police force, its men and martyrs. [applause] I appreciate their patriotic stance in securing the internal front. Their responsibility is great; their task is difficult. Only those who uphold principles and values and believe in God and the homeland can undertake them. Greetings to them from the great Egyptian people as they chase the remnants of terrorists and those who follow subversive ideology that has spread in numerous countries. I tell everyone that there will be no reversal of democracy as a basis for rule. [applause] This is the people's choice. There shall be no going back on building bridges of cooperation with our Arab brothers to preserve the Arab nation's security.

Brother citizens, I want my speech on the 11th anniversary of the liberation of Sinai to be a call for peace, a peace that will achieve fraternity and equality for all peoples, sow good in hearts, eliminate hotbeds of conflict, and open vistas for work, construction, and development projects throughout the world so that mankind can enjoy it. Thus we can replace sorrow with smiles.

May God bless everyone who builds a brick in the building of peace and sows plants in the soil. Blessed be the peacemakers. May God grant us success. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

### Musa Welcomes Christopher, Rabin Remarks on Talks

*NC2404185793 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has welcomed U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's statement on the peace process and the surrounding circumstances. Christopher reasserted the U.S. position on the principles of the peace process, Palestinian rights, security for all parties, and the need to reach a fair and comprehensive peace agreement in the Middle East. Musa noted Christopher's statement, particularly the clauses relating to activating the U.S. role as full partner. Musa stressed that this is a very important point.

Musa also welcomed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that his government has no intention of deporting large numbers of Palestinians and will participate in the peace process seriously and actively.

### Musa on Damascus Declaration, ICO Meeting

*NC2404210693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1434 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)—The foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration will hold a meeting in Abu Dhabi on Thursday and Friday [29-30 April]. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa disclosed this news today, saying he will take part in the meeting.

Minister Musa said he will attend the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] meeting in Karachi tomorrow, Sunday. Following the meeting, he will go to Abu Dhabi to hand a message from President Husni Mubarak to United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Musa said the ICO conference will discuss a number of important topics, chief of which is the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Musa said the ICO should see the deteriorating situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a rallying call to Islamic countries and nations. He added that an end must be put to the massacres taking place, the irrational attitude of the Serbs, and the intolerable practice of ethnic cleansing.

The ICO, Musa added, will also discuss Islam's position and image in the world, a number of other issues of concern to the Islamic nations, and the Middle East peace process.

Musa said a request for the conference to discuss terrorism has been made and will be looked into.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1539 GMT on 24 April carries a related report noting that Minister 'Amr Musa "left Cairo this afternoon to Karachi to lead Egypt delegation to the ICO meetings that will open there tomorrow."]

### Reportage, Reaction to Sudanese Claims of Coup Plot

#### Sudanese Claims 'Mere Fantasy'

*NC2404205893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2019 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)—An official source has commented on a report by the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY [SUNA] claiming that the Sudanese security agencies have uncovered a scheme hatched by the Sudanese opposition to invade Sudan. The source said the Sudanese regime has made a habit of attributing the deteriorating economic and living conditions resulting from its isolation at the local and foreign levels to foreign elements. The source added: This is why the Sudanese media have been circulating reports about a conspiracy against Sudan being financed by foreign quarters, meaning Egypt.

The source said this type of conduct is surprising and is a mere fantasy, unacceptable to any sensible person. He affirmed that Egypt's fixed policy is not to interfere in any state's internal affairs.

The source concluded that the ties binding Egypt and Sudan make it virtually impossible for Egypt to take part in such vituperations.

#### 'Rhetoric' on Plots 'Groundless'

*NC2504072393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1446 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the rhetoric dispensed by the Sudanese media is groundless and will lead to the further deterioration of Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

Commenting on claims by Sudanese media that Egypt supports schemes to depose the Sudanese regime, Minister Musa said the Sudanese media campaign is irresponsible and must stop, for it will only make it harder to heal the rift.

Minister Musa mentioned that he met the Sudanese foreign minister on the sidelines of the recent Arab League ministerial meeting and agreed with him to revive the committee on Hala'ib and continue the dialogue. Musa described his Sudanese counterpart as being one of the good elements.

### Fifty Arrested in Attack on Information Minister

*NC2404062993 Paris AFP in English 2323 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Text] Cairo, April 24 (AFP)—Police have arrested 50 suspects in the course of searches for the would-be killers of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, the semi-official AL-AHRAM newspaper said Saturday [24 April].

It said the arrests took place in a number of working class areas of Cairo and its suburbs.

According to AL-AHRAM, investigators had succeeded in identifying the two people who, witnesses to the attack said, opened fire on the minister Tuesday. Quoting police sources, it said they fled in the direction of al-Qalyubiyah, northeast of the capital.

Al-Sharif suffered a slight hand injury in the attack, in which his driver and his bodyguard were wounded. The bodyguard, who was hit by six bullets, is still in critical condition.

### Islamic Group Vows Revenge for Death Sentences

*NC2304170093 Paris AFP in English 1540 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Excerpt] Asyut, Egypt, April 23 (AFP)—The extremist al- Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group on Friday vowed to seek revenge for death sentences issued the previous day against seven fundamentalist militants.

The verdict was "unfair," said an al-Jama'ah militant reading from a statement at the end of weekly prayers in a mosque in the fundamentalist stronghold of Asyut, 360 kilometers (223 miles) south of Cairo.

"It will fan the flames of our vengeance," the militant said.

An Egyptian military court condemned seven Islamic militants to death on Thursday for attacks on foreign tourists.

The seven were among 49 suspects on trial since March 9 for a series of attacks last year.

Twenty-five of the suspects received various prison sentences ranging from life to two years while 17 were acquitted.

The al-Jama'ah has led a running battle with the authorities to set up a strict Islamic state in Egypt, where some 140 people, including three tourists, have been killed since March 1992.

The statement read here Friday said the sentences "will reinforce the al-Jama'ah's determination to fight the regime" of President Husni Mubarak.

But the group denied press reports suggesting it had claimed responsibility for an aborted attempt to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif on Tuesday.

The pro-government press reported that a al-Jama'ah spokesman claimed the attack in calls to news agencies, during which al- Sharif's hand was cut by flying glass when his car was ambushed. His bodyguard and driver were wounded by gunfire.

The al-Jama'ah charged that the government staged the attack "as a pretext to foil a mediation bid" by Islamic intellectuals between the authorities and the militants. [passage omitted]

### Authorities Agree To Ship Last Known Batch of Uranium

*NC2404120193 Paris AFP in English 1105 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[text] Baghdad, April 24 (AFP)—Iraq authorities agreed here Saturday to ship abroad the last known batch of enriched uranium made for the country's atomic weapons program, the head of a U.N. team said here.

The U.N. and Iraqi officials signed "a memorandum of understanding on what Iraq can do to assist us in the removing of the (nuclear) fuel," weighing 40 kilograms (88 pounds), Maurizio Zifferero said.

Removal could begin in July or August, according to the Italian who headed a 17-member team which ended a week-long visit to Iraq.

"The removal of the uranium would take about six months and needs a lot of technical assistance from the Iraqi side. This is not a simple operation," he said.

"The operation will require substantial support both in terms of equipment facilities and manpower from the Iraqi side," he said. "Iraq is obliged to bear the costs of the transfer which will be very high."

While awaiting a plan to remove the material, previous U.N. missions had left the uranium at two nuclear facilities, including Tuwaythah, 30 kilometers (18 miles) southeast of Baghdad.

In December a U.N. mission said it had destroyed material used to enrich uranium at the Tuwaythah facility, which allied warplanes hit during the 1991 Gulf war.

Zifferero declined to say where the uranium would be sent.

### Kurdish Leaders Discuss Iranian Shelling

*NC2304180093 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Text] The political leadership of the Kurdistan Front met at the Pirman resort on Thursday afternoon. Kurdistan Democratic Party leader Mas'ud Barzani called for this emergency meeting. He announced that he will participate in the Unified Iraqi National Congress' delegation, which soon will visit Washington. The political leadership discussed the issue of Iranian troop concentrations on the border of Kurdistan, the need to verify Iranian intentions and positions, and finding suitable means and solutions to end the problem and normalize relations.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Tawfiq Rahim, minister of cooperation and humanitarian assistance, has told the KURDISTAN NEWS AGENCY that an increasing number of people living in border areas—who had recently returned to rebuild these areas with the assistance of international and humanitarian organizations—are leaving them for other villages and towns because of the Iranian artillery shelling. The minister said that the Iranian troop and equipment concentrations on the border clearly indicate that Iran is preparing to carry out an attack inside Iraqi Kurdistan. The minister called for restoring security and peace in the area and for the withdrawal of the military forces from the border areas so that the people can return home and proceed with their normal lives.

### Iranian Bombardment Protested to UN Secretary General

*JN2504111893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] New York, 25 Apr (INA)—Iraq has protested to the United Nations the Iranian bombardment of civilian areas in Qal'at Dizah, Pishtashan, and Qirnago inside Iraqi territory in northern Iraq. As a result of the bombardment, a number of civilians were martyred and wounded and more than 3,000 men, women, and children were forced to leave the area in order to flee the Iranian artillery bombardment. In a memorandum to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's UN permanent representative said that Iraq fully reserves its right to respond to this aggressive operation which is also considered a blatant encroachment on Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and a blatant violation of Security Council Resolution 598. Besides, this operation constitutes a flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs. Iraq also has a right to resort to any adequate way to maintain its legitimate rights.

The Iraqi memorandum asks the UN secretary general to take the measures provided by the UN Charter to prevent the Iranian side from repeating such aggressive acts which violate the rules of the international law.

### Iranian Troops Said Deploying East of Banjwin; UN Informed

*JN2504150993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Iraq today protested once again to the United Nations a new aggression by the Iranian regime against the Qal'at Dizah basin on 20 April.

In a memorandum he delivered to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations explained that Iranian troops are deploying on the Iranian side of the border to the east of the Iraqi town of Banjwin, thus leading many families to leave the Banjwin area to escape any possible bombardment by the deployed Iranian units.

The memorandum emphasizes Iraq's denunciation of the Iranian regime's insistence on continuing its new aggression and violating Iraqi sovereignty and territorial integrity in blatant violation of UN Security Council Resolution 598. Iraq asked the United Nations to take the measures provided for by the UN Charter and

principles to stop Iran from continuing such hostile acts, which violate the principles of international law. The memorandum also says Iraq reserves the right to respond to these hostile acts and use any appropriate means to protect its legitimate rights and interests.

### Foreign Ministry Refutes Iranian 'Allegations' on POW's

*JN2504083393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2002 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—Iraq has refuted Iranian allegations on the unilateral release of 200 Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's]. In a statement to INA today, an authorized source at the Foreign Ministry said that the Iranian news agency reported false and inaccurate information. The Iraqi source added that those who were released on Thursday, 22 April 1993, are not POW's, but were among the thousands of Iraqi soldiers who were forced to enter Iranian territory during the chapter of treason and treachery in 1991.

The Iraqi spokesman said: As we welcome the return of our sons to the homeland, we would like to see the Iranian officials' statements be accurate, expressive of a legal, realistic, and human state of affairs, and far away from propagandistic purposes. The fact that the Iranian officials should not forget is that there are thousands of registered and nonregistered Iraqi POW's who have been held in Iranian detention camps for more than 10 years. During this time, the human suffering of the POW's and their families have increased. This is considered a violation of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949, the principles of the international human law, and Islamic law.

The Iraqi spokesman added: Therefore, we hope that the Iranian officials will demonstrate a commitment to conventions and a respect for related international charters and norms. We also hope that they will take into consideration the human reasons that require their immediate release and repatriation to Iraq without delay to end the tribulation of the Iraqi POW's and their families.

### Saudi, Kuwaiti Facilities for Western Planes Protested

*JN2504110693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League against the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers' continued provision of facilities to U.S., Britisn, and French aircraft which violate Iraqi airspace after taking off from air bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Iraq said that this constitutes a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League said that taking off from these bases, the American, British, and French aircraft carried out 82 hostile sorties last Wednesday and Thursday [21 and 22 April].

Iraq's permanent representative asked the Arab League secretary general to brief the Arab League member states on these regrettable facts which were accompanied by a list detailing these violations.

### UN Informed of American U-2 Airspace 'Violations'

*JN2504112693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] New York, 25 Apr (INA)—Iraq has renewed its protest to the United Nations over the American U-2 violation of Iraqi airspace under the pretext of conducting aerial surveillance for the UN Special Commission.

In a message to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali, Iraq's Acting Foreign Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi said that the Iraqi plane, taking off from the Saudi territory, violated Iraqi airspace on 8, 13, and 19 April and overflew large areas in central and northern Iraq. The minister noted that with these three violations this plane has so far violated Iraqi airspace 130 times.

Concluding his message, the Iraqi minister said: As we denounce and condemn these unjustified violations of Iraqi airspace, we reiterate Iraq's stand which we have always expressed; namely, this plane is used for purposes that are not defined by the Security Council and its activities are considered an encroachment on Iraq's sovereignty and security.

### Air Force Planes Overfly Baghdad for 2d Straight Day

*NC2404134893 Paris AFP in English 1322 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Excerpt] Baghdad, April 23 (AFP) - Some 50 Iraqi warplanes on Friday flew low over Baghdad for the second day running in what seemed like preparation for an air show, witnesses said.

They said the planes flew in formation above the capital on Thursday with an even larger number taking to the skies on Friday.

Iraq is preparing to celebrate President Saddam Husayn's 57th birthday on April 28, according to press reports. On Wednesday, the air force celebrated the 62nd anniversary of its creation.

On April 3, the air force took part in live-fire exercises involving armored vehicles, commando units and artillery, Baghdad said. [passage omitted]

### Comment on Overflights

*NC2404161593 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Large numbers of the tyrant regime's warplanes have overflown Baghdad at low altitude. Upwards of 150 planes have been flying in formation above the capital from west to east. Baghdad has been the scene of bloody incidents the last few days following an attempt to kidnap the regime's interior minister. Shots have been heard and the regime forces have imposed a siege on parts of the city.

Observers believe today's overflights are linked to these incidents. The tyrant's regime fears that its frightening posture at home may be shaken, causing further defiance to it and accelerating its fall.

It should be mentioned that Saddam regime's warplanes are banned from flying over the two no-fly zones in the north and south; they are shot down as soon as they take to the skies there. This consolidates the conviction that the recent air show over Baghdad was meant to terrorize citizens.

### Antiregime Activities Reported in Baghdad, Other Cities

*NC2304180893 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Text] Our sources have reported that following a popular uprising in al-'Amarah this week and as a result of confrontations between the regime forces and the people, a large number of regime forces and followers were killed or wounded. The bodies of 12 soldiers from Karkuk were returned to their families last Wednesday. The families were told not to hold funerals for them for fear these occasions would be exploited by the soldiers' families and other relatives. The regime also deployed a large number of troops inside and outside Karkuk. These measures were adopted following reports related by opposition sources and confirmed by REUTER that anti- regime activities were conducted in several Iraqi cities, including Baghdad.

### Regime Casualties in Baghdad Clashes Reported

*NC2504174293 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Excerpt] Our correspondent in Baghdad has sent us an exclusive report on the deteriorating situation there. He said that clashes broke out in [word indistinct] in Baghdad at 1500 on 11 April. An armed group clashed with regime troops. A number of the regime's henchmen were killed or wounded during the fighting.

Our correspondent said that the al-Fudayliyah quarter witnessed violent clashes on 13 April, during which four regime troops were killed and many others wounded.

On the same day, citizen Hasan Hasan 'Abdallah opened fire on a group of regime troops conducting searches in the al-Sha'b area, killing two troops before he was killed.

Our correspondent added that the search and arrest campaigns continue in Baghdad and the southern towns in an attempt to suppress and provoke the citizens. [passage omitted]

### 85 Regime Troops Killed in al-Basrah Attack

*NC2504173793 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources have said that opposition forces have inflicted heavy losses on the Iraqi regime during an attack they launched on an area between al-Nasiriyah and al-Basrah Governorates.

A statement issued by the opposition on 24 April says that 85 of the regime's troops were killed and a number of others captured during the attack. The statement adds that the regime sent reinforcements from the presidential guards in an attempt to regain the areas liberated by the opposition forces.

### 'Thousands' of Iraqi Kurds Protest in Irbil 22 April

*NC2604110193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Esteemed listeners, the noble freedomseeking people of Iraqi Kurdistan continue to express sympathy and support for the Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK] in Iran.

The zealous people of Iraqi Kurdistan staged extensive marches and demonstrations to display their anger at and abhorrence for the plot of the Islamic Republic, which attacked the border areas of Iraqi Kurdistan. Earlier, we reported emotional marches by the people of Qal'at Dizah and Dukan in Iraqi Kurdistan.

We now report on the marches staged by the people of Irbil in Iraqi Kurdistan:

On 22 April, Irbil's compassionate people demonstrated and condemned Iranian plots and asserted their support and backing for the DPK in Iran.

Thousands, including school and college students from Irbil and Salah al-Din arts college and teachers and staff at universities and members of youth and student unions, participated. The march started at 1100 at the Secretariat of the Youth and Student Union and moved toward the Irbil Governorate building, the demonstrators shouting slogans. They gathered outside the governorate building, where they read out a resolution before handing it to the UNICEF representative there.

The resolution stated:

1. We call on the United Nations and the Security Council to limit the disgraceful actions of the Iranian regime.

2. Numerous air attacks by the Iranian regime over Kurdistan and shelling of the region violate international laws.

3. We support the legitimate rights of the Kordish people in Iranian Kordestan.

4. We condemn the antihuman actions of the Iranian regime.

5. The Kurd problem can be solved amicably, without war or national exploitation.

6. We will stay in the trenches as peshmergas to safeguard the government and hallowed land of Kurdistan.

After a few hours' marching, shouting slogans, and reading the resolution, the demonstrators again pledged that if events necessitate, they will spare no effort.

On behalf of the Voice of Iranian Kordestan, we are grateful to and appreciate the zealous and revolutionary people of Irbil in Iraqi Kurdistan. May the solidarity and unanimity of the Kurdish people defeat the plots of the turbanned clerics of the regime and smooth the path of victory.

### 28 Apr Celebrations for Saddam's Birthday Planned

*JN2504162293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] In Baghdad, an official Iraqi source has said that preparations are under way in the Iraqi capital to organize popular and official celebrations on the occasion of President Saddam Husayn's birthday on Wednesday [28 April]. Tens of thousands of Iraqis are expected to take part in the celebrations, according to the source, which added that the main celebration will be held in the city of Tikrit, birthplace of the Iraqi president. Other celebrations will also take place at many locations in Iraq.

## Rabinovich Seeks Clarifications on Christopher's Remarks

*TA2504055893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to Washington, has asked for clarifications from the U.S. State Department following Secretary of State Warren Christopher's assertion that the United States would maintain an even-handed policy toward Israel and the Arabs. Christopher was speaking at a dinner given by the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports from Washington:

The resounding applause that followed Secretary of State Warren Christopher's statements, and especially the content of his remarks, aroused a certain degree of concern among Israeli diplomats in Washington, who are currently preparing for the resumption of the peace negotiations next week. The Secretary of State said that he was determined that the United States would not only seem even-handed but be even-handed. Ambassador Rabinovich immediately sought clarifications from the State Department.

Israeli sources said that these remarks were more suited to the previous administration, led by former President Bush. Clinton's people have not come out with such statements up till now, the sources noted.

The State Department explained that Christopher's remarks had come in response to a question about the U.S. role as a honest broker. Ambassador Rabinovich subsequently told Qol Yisra'el that the entire affair was as good as closed.

Meanwhile, discussions continue between the heads of the Israeli delegation and the State Department's peace team. Last Friday, they met for five hours in order to discuss Israel's new, improved proposals for the Palestinian track. Both sides agreed that these proposals constituted the basis for the beginning of real progress in the negotiations. It was reported that among other things, the Americans were pleased with the Israeli proposal regarding land administration in the territories by the Autonomy Council. As for good will gestures—although Israel prefers to allude to confidence building measures designed to improve the atmosphere at the talks—it is expected that in addition to the return of veteran deportees, the appeal committees will now authorize the return of additional Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. It was stressed, however, that such steps would only be implemented after the Palestinians began to seriously discuss the autonomy plan. It is up to them, they have to negotiate seriously, Israeli sources said.

The consultations between the U.S. and Israeli teams will continue in hopes of guaranteeing real progress at the upcoming round of talks. The United States and Israel believe that this is possible but a great deal depends on the other parties.

## Rabinovich Interviewed on U.S. Statement

*TA2504064193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Telephone interview with Ambassador to the United States Professor Itamar Rabinovich by Karmit Gay—live]

[Text] [Gay] Good morning to Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador in Washington.

[Rabinovich] Good morning.

[Gay] Why should talk of an even-handed policy cause us alarm?

[Rabinovich] There was no cause for alarm or incident. In truth, this was merely a demonstration of the limitations one encounters when translating from one language to another. The English expression was even handed [last two words in English], which is a catch phrase coined several years ago in order to describe the discarding of an ostensibly pro-Israeli policy in favor of a balanced policy putting both Israel and the Arab countries on the same basis.

The present U.S. Administration spoke about maintaining a special relationship with Israel. Therefore, in light of the above, Mr. Christopher's remark seemed somewhat atypical in that context; and, as it later transpired, his statements indeed proved to be uncharacteristic, and the matter was subsequently resolved.

[Gay] But if the United States wants to be a honest broker, unless that is also some kind of diplomatic code, then we may be in store for more statements of this kind.

[Rabinovich] I am sure that the administration was under pressure from the Arab parties, and perhaps even from circles inside the administration or the United States, to put some distance between Washington and Israel in order to become a more effective facilitator. Our position and viewpoint is that on the two occasions the United States was successful in its mediation or orchestration of Middle East peace talks, once back in Kissinger's time and once during President Carter's tenure, it was primarily because it had such close relations with Israel. There is no need for the United States to distance itself from Israel. Relations are good, and as far as we are concerned they can stay that way.

[Gay] The delegations are scheduled to arrive in Washington any day now. You head the team for negotiations with Syria. What are your expectations for the upcoming round of talks?

[Rabinovich] We are negotiating on four tracks. In his report just now, correspondent Arye Golan spoke about the Palestinian track. On the Syrian track, we will first of all try to tie all the strings back together. We have not spoken with the Syrians for four months and, as opposed to the Palestinians, we have no contacts with the Syrians except for the talks. We will begin by trying to put all the

pieces back together and see whether things are still where we left off. After that is behind us, there are some very important questions that we asked the Syrians toward the end of the last round of talks in December 1992 which still remain unanswered.

[Gay] Such as, for example, their definition of the nature of peace?

[Rabinovich] That is correct. The second component of the nature of the peace is the question of its viability and whether an Israeli-Syrian agreement, when eventually reached, could stand independently on its own two feet. The difficulties the Syrians faced this week in coming to the talks without the Palestinians emphasizes the importance of this matter. In other words, if the Syrians were unable to go to Washington if the Palestinians did not want to come, then how resilient would an Israeli-Syrian agreement prove to be in the face of tensions between Israel and the Palestinians or Israel and other Arab parties.

[Gay] Can you answer that question?

[Rabinovich] I think we can reach an agreement that will prove durable. We have such an agreement with an Arab country; however, we have to be certain that Syria also seeks such an agreement and that is the question we are asking.

## Rabinovich Assesses U.S. Relations

*TA2504124393 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR (INDEPENDENCE DAY supplement) in Hebrew 25 Apr 93 pp 3, 4*

[Interview with Ambassador to the United States Itamar Rabinovich by Qeren Neubach in Washington "this week"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Neubach] You arrived in Washington to meet a new administration, and yet you are familiar with most of the State Department officials dealing with the peace process. How would you describe U.S.-Israel relations in the Rabin-Clinton era?

[Rabinovich] The overall shape of Israeli-U.S. relations is superb. This administration has been emitting this feeling from the top. It sympathizes with and wants good relations with Israel. The President does not have to deal with conducting such a policy on a daily basis, but it is clear that he inspires the people around him in this direction. The policy regarding the Middle East and contacts with Israel is directed by the secretary of state, along with the National Security Council, and in certain respects the Defense Department. From secretaries to lower level functionaries, the general spirit of the administration in the daily work on issues on the agenda is very good, expressing a very warm atmosphere. Traditional affection for Israel in Congress continues as well. [passage omitted]

[Neubach] What about your personal working relations with the administration officials?

[Rabinovich] I have nothing but praise for the State Department and White House peace teams, and other functionaries. Wherever we deal with general or bilateral issues, I find a very warm feeling and a willingness to facilitate the work. From this point of view, it was very easy to start working here.

[Neubach] Is Israel coming to the next round of talks, when it opens, with new ideas to promote the talks, or are we dealing with the same ideas as presented in the previous rounds?

[Rabinovich] We come with ideas that could allow the talks to become a practical success story in the foreseeable future. Israel has taken half a step forward on the Syrian-Israeli track, and now it is the Syrian turn to respond in kind. This is our view and I believe that the Americans see eye to eye with us on this. Naturally, al-Asad is not interested in taking his half step, and we are debating this. We feel that we should be bringing new things to the Syrian track, but first we want to hear the Syrian answers to older questions.

[Neubach] You are concluding three months in Washington. Over the past four months no talks have been held, and at the same time there was the deportee crisis and the ensuing wave of terror in Israel. From your point of view of the overall picture, are we closer to reaching a peace agreement in 1993, and do you believe that this view, as presented by Prime Minister Rabin and Presidents Mubarak and Clinton, is realistic?

[Rabinovich] From a tactical point of view, we must not appear too eager. One of al-Asad's greatest advantages are his nerves of steel. The reality is complex, and we have to carry a complex message, addressing the Israeli public, the Arab world, the world at large, and mainly the United States. The main point of the message should state that, for us, peace is a central and very valued goal, for the attainment of which we are willing to take steps, assume certain risks to a certain point, and even pay a certain price in return for peace on a basis of reciprocity. But, all of this, up to a point. Eagerness is out of place; concessions for the sake of concessions are out of place as well. This is a complex message and it is often hard to detect the nuances it includes.

Regarding your question specifically, therefore, we have a message saying: We want peace, we believe it is important to score some achievement this year, but certainly not at all cost. We have our red lines and points from which we will not deviate.

I believe that in 1993 we can reach tangible achievements in the process, but not a comprehensive and sweeping arrangement. I believe that speaking of real agreements or peace agreements in 1993 would be expecting too much. Nevertheless, a realistic aim would be to reach meaningful achievements in the Syrian and Palestinian tracks, which would immediately have an effect on the Jordanian and Lebanese tracks.

## U.S. Official Said 'Optimistic' After Meeting Rabin

*TA2604105593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Apr 93*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met this morning with Samuel Lewis, the director of policy planning at the U.S. State Department. The two men discussed the peace talks which are scheduled to resume in Washington tomorrow. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports from Jerusalem.

[Begin recording] [Gutman] Both Samuel Lewis and Prime Minister Rabin described their meeting this morning as a private one. Lewis was in the Middle East on other business and decided to drop by for a visit. Following their hour-long meeting, Lewis expressed hope for the success of the upcoming round of peace talks that starts in Washington tomorrow.

[Lewis, in English] I think we are going to make some real progress. We are going to work as hard as we can, and I am optimistic.

[Gutman, translates above remarks and continues] Sources in Jerusalem voiced the assessment that Mr. Lewis had stressed the importance the United States attributes to making progress in the talks between Israel and the Palestinians on implementing autonomy in the territories. [end recording]

## Rabin on Peace Talks, Creation of 'Palestinian Entity'

*TA2504094493 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (INDEPENDENCE DAY supplement) in Hebrew 25 Apr 93 pp 2, 3*

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Nahum Barne'a at the prime minister's apartment in Tel Aviv on 24 April]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Barne'a] Approximately one year ago, you thought that things would work out differently. That did not happen.

[Rabin] That is true. The impact of the Gulf war on the Palestinians faded much faster than I had thought, and this did not improve matters. I admit this was the case, but it does not change my basic approach.

I hope that the delegations will arrive in two days. I believe that the Arab delegations will come but I do not know how many Palestinians will show up and in what composition.

The two key issues are the possibility of reaching an interim agreement with the Palestinians for a transitional period and the possibility of achieving peace with Syria. I am not interested in reaching an interim accord with Syria. We already have interim arrangements with the Syrians that have held firm for 19 years. I can only wish that other agreements will be kept like the agreement on the Golan Heights, which is the safest area there is.

We will make progress wherever possible. The real test is not about setting priorities but the possibility to make progress. On the Palestinian track, our basic approach is that we are willing to turn over to Palestinian hands almost all of the roles carried out by the civil administration with regard to the population and the places they live in, and also with regard to their private land. There will be no territorial division. We will be responsible for the lives of Israeli citizens and for security. As for state lands, we are ready to coordinate their administration.

As for the permanent solution, the present government does not consider Greater Israel to be its goal. Not because of geographical reasons but because of demographical realities. I do not want to annex approximately 2 million Palestinians. We cannot implement Israeli law without awarding them civil rights, unless we are prepared to become a racist state—which we are not. At the same time, I do not want to return to the 1967 borders.

I am interested in strengthening the Palestinian delegation. That is why I raised no objection when asked in Washington about the inclusion of Faysal al-Husayni as head of the delegation. I do not see it posing any danger to Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem.

I am already willing today to include the Palestinian delegation in any decision regarding the investment of 200 million shekels we are going to put into the territories. I would like the territories to become the focus for investments from the rich Arab states and European elements. So far, the Europeans have been paying more lip service than money. All this would strengthen the delegation. The guy holding the money not always call the shots, but it is always good if the guy calling the shots also has some cash to back him up.

[Barne'a] Do you accept the establishment of a Palestinian police force?

[Rabin] Yes. Let them begin setting it up in Jordan or Egypt. The police force can operate not like the organization that existed in the territories until today, but rather constitute the police force of the Palestinian authority, when that body is eventually elected. I have no problem with that.

[Barne'a] How many policemen are you talking about? Faysal al-Husayni mentioned 20,000.

[Rabin] I do not know what size the force will assume. We have not discussed that yet.

[Barne'a] Can you tell us today with certainty that your approach is not leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state?

[Rabin] According to my approach, which is not that of Greater Israel, a Palestinian entity, which is not a state, will come into being. An entity similar to the Jewish

community here at the time of the British mandate, which ran its own affairs. The interim arrangement must leave some options open. A Palestinian state, whose establishment I oppose, will not be the only option.

[Barne'a] Are you aware of the possibility that a Palestinian state could be established anyway?

[Rabin] Every move involves some risks, and I am not trying to downplay them. The decision by the Likud government to return all of the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt involved a certain degree of risk. Today that is history, but once Moshe Dayan, who was no extremist, said that it was better to have Sharm al-Shaykh without peace than peace without Sharm al-Shaykh. Concepts change.

As for the Syrians, we will not discuss the dimensions of our withdrawal until the Syrians explain what kind of peace they are referring to and whether it includes secure borders, normalization, security arrangements, and a bilateral agreement that stands on its own two feet.

[Barne'a] According to Egyptian President Mubarak, al-Asad has said he means everything in exchange for everything.

[Rabin] I still do not understand what al-Asad means by everything. To my great regret, and contrary to all the reports, we still have no direct contact with the Syrians beyond the delegations' meetings in Washington.

When it comes to issues that pertain to a certain country, I generally prefer to hear what the country's leaders have to say. I greatly appreciate President Mubarak's efforts, but I have yet to hear of any Arab leader delegating his authority to another leader.

[Barne'a] Could you today state with certainty that Syria will never return to the old border at al-Kursi, 10 meters from Lake Tiberias?

[Rabin] I am more familiar with the unique security significance of the Golan Heights than most of its residents. I experienced all the incidents and artillery shellings of the 1950's and 1960's. I know exactly what security problems exist, but I also know that real peace guarantees security.

The importance of the Golan Heights is in its topography. The settlements are a manifestation of our desire to hold on to the Heights. They would only offer a limited contribution to security in peacetime, whereas in wartime, their contribution is marginal.

My intention is to avoid paying the same price for peace as we paid with Egypt. The Likud government led by Begin returned everything up to the last grain of Egyptian sand. That has undoubtedly established a precedent that will be very difficult to reverse.

[Barne'a] Your reply will not be a source of great consolation for the settlers on the Golan Heights.

[Rabin] And if the border does not run along Lake Tiberias but along the ridge, three km from al-Kursi? Would that make the settlers happy? [passage omitted]

[Barne'a] Are you not feeling the way you felt in your first term in office, with ministers trying to pressure you or tie your hands?

[Rabin] This time things are completely different.

[Barne'a] Even on the political level? Are there not people who, behind your back, are trying to set up secret contacts between you and the PLO in Tunis?

[Rabin] I have encountered no problems. My only problem is how to achieve the goals I have set myself. There are differences of opinion in the government but I do not regard them as disagreements on cardinal issues. For example, there was a businesslike discussion about the closure on the territories. Some of the military brass were opposed to it. They had to bear the brunt of the negative aspects of the closure. As far as we were concerned, the closure emphasized the fact that Jerusalem is part of the State of Israel.

The most serious incident during the closure was the car bomb at Mehola junction. The car had a yellow license plate. It was stolen in Israel in March. It only got as far as Mehola because it could not cross into the Green Line. This fact accentuates the advantages of the closure.

[Barne'a] Do you feel that you are in control of the cabinet in its present composition?

[Rabin] I will not discuss problems with this or that man or woman. The cabinet's present composition facilitates the achievement of our goals. Even the United Torah Jewry faction could be a coalition partner and support the same goals. Of course, anything can happen. In the past, most Israeli governments did not fall over issues of substance.

[Barne'a] Does the investigation of Interior Ministry Arye Der'i not cast a pall over relations with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]?

[Rabin] I do not wish to discuss the investigation. I do not want my remarks to be interpreted against the background of coalition considerations. In my opinion, much could be done to improve the way the police force operates, especially in the field of investigations.

[Barne'a] What about the head of the Shin Bet?

[Rabin] I have full confidence in the Shin Bet and in its head. Pure and simple. I give them all my support. They are doing a terrific job.

[Barne'a] Did you read the Vardi report [on the investigation into alleged improprieties by the head of the Shin Bet]?

[Rabin] I read it.

[Barne'a] Were you not impressed with its findings?

[Rabin] The report is now over two years old. It had been around for over a year when I assumed my post.

[Barne'a] Did you extend the head of the Shin Bet's tenure by an additional year?

[Rabin] I will not discuss timetables. I intend to instate—and work has already begun on this subject—fixed tenures for the heads of the security services. The chief of staff is appointed for three years with the possibility of a one-year extension. I have decided that the commanders of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] branches will not serve at their posts for more than four years. Once there are clear regulations on such matters there are no problems regarding someone's replacement. A person completes his tenure, and then, whether he was very good at his job or even excellent, he is transferred to another post. [passage omitted]

[Barne'a] Are you sure that on Israel's next Independence Day, you will be able to bring a message of peace?

[Rabin] If another year goes by without the beginning of something, that will give real cause for question. We are now entering a trial period.

### Rabin Denies Report of Meeting With al-Husayni

*TA2404081393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Report by Amir Hay]

[Excerpt] Over the past several days, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met with Faysal al-Husayni, and discussed the resumption of the peace talks. This was reported by Palestinian sources. According to them, in his discussions with the prime minister, al-Husayni raised the difficult situation in the territories due to the closure and complained that the government's activities have pushed the Palestinian delegates into a corner.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Prime Minister Rabin said in response that this never happened and denied the meetings. Faysal al-Husayni also refused to comment on his meetings with the prime minister or other ministers. [passage omitted]

### Rubinstein on Peace Talks, al-Husayni, Jerusalem

*TA2304180193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Text] In Washington, Israeli peace negotiators have begun consultations with State Department representatives in advance of Tuesday's renewed Middle East peace talks. The head of the team negotiating with the Jordanians and Palestinians, Elyaqim Rubinstein, said he hoped that the talks would be substantial and said that if the Palestinians express readiness for serious negotiations and for a halt to terrorism, Israel would inform them of gestures to ease life in the territories. Rubinstein also said he hoped the addition of Faysal al-Husayni to the Palestinian negotiating team would help advance the talks. He said al-Husayni's presence had no bearing on the issue of Jerusalem because that matter is not on the agenda for talks.

Meanwhile, members of the Palestinian delegation have ended consultations in East Jerusalem with U.S. Consul General Molly Williams and will leave on Sunday for Washington. Faysal al-Husayni expressed hope the talks would bring about an easing in conditions to residents of the territories.

### Peres Hopes Palestinians Seize 'Crucial' Opportunity

*TA2604093893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Apr 93*

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has expressed the hope that the peace talks scheduled to resume in Washington tomorrow will bring the desired results. Minister Peres believes that the situation in the region could deteriorate if no progress is made towards peace and asserted that every effort should therefore be made to conclude the negotiations as quickly as possible. For that reason, Foreign Minister Peres said he hopes that the Palestinians will not miss the present opportunity, which is of crucial importance for all the parties.

Minister Peres was speaking at the conclusion of a ceremony at the president's residence at which 120 outstanding soldiers received citations.

### Defense Official on Egypt, U.S. Cooperation, Industry

*TA2404105093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Studio interview with Defense Minister Director General David 'Ivri by Dalya Ya'iri and army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Menashe] Is Egypt seriously and truly involved in the arms control process?

['Ivri] The Egyptians are not just involved. They initiate moves; they are trying to push this forward. We should remember that the Egyptians are not directly active in the bilateral talks, where we are facing our neighboring countries with whom we do not yet have peace. We have peace with Egypt. It is true that it plays a major role regarding coordination and pressing other countries to go on with the process, but it is not a direct partner. In the multilateral talks on arms control and regional security they feel they can do more in a clearer fashion. Therefore, they are stressing this seriously. That is why they initiate a lot. They are very involved, and I would say they are one of the main components of the talks.

[Menashe] The last time you were in Egypt was for the signing of the peace agreement when you were Air Force commander, a warrior. Now you are heading the Defense Ministry delegation on peace issues.

['Ivri] I believe that when I was there in uniform the aim was peace. The war was to make peace, to provide security to Israel. The way to do that is through either talks or war. When there is an opportunity to work in peaceful ways we should try that. We should continue doing so until Israel's security is so strong and the ability of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] so good—not in case a war breaks out, which is the routine formula—that we can work from a position of confidence in our power and thus be able to hold better and healthier negotiations. It is important for the other side as well. If we are not strong enough, the other side could always be tempted to look for other ways to attain achievements. We must make certain that the peace process achieves the right thing. [passage omitted]

[Menashe] The foreign press today reports that a South Korean delegation visited Israel to study our method for bombarding the Iraqi nuclear reactor. It was also reported that you were invited to visit South Korea. Is this true?

['Ivri] I am not familiar with a visit here by any South Korean delegation. In any event, I met no such delegation. As for the other thing, I have never received such an invitation. The whole story is pure nonsense.

[Ya'iri] In view of the peace talks and the continuing process, how far will the strategic cooperation continue with the new U.S. Administration?

['Ivri] It is hard to make a prediction, but judging from my visit there, accompanying the prime minister at his first meetings with the new administration, my impression is that they intend to strengthen strategic ties with the State of Israel. Furthermore, they are looking for appropriate means for the present administration and Israel under the current circumstances. That is, they want to tighten the ties, which is the positive trend we are observing. As for the means and solutions, this is a process; it cannot be prescribed by a doctor. We have to sit and talk this over, and we will continue meeting, as in the past, to search for areas in which it is best for both countries to promote the strategic issues. [passage omitted]

[Menashe] The Israel Military Industries [IMI] has recently published its balance sheet, showing significant loses. The firing of hundreds of workers is being discussed in the Israel Aircraft Industries. How do you view the future of the defense industry?

['Ivri] The situation of the defense industries is primarily due to the state of economy. In the United States there has been a significant cut in military orders, which have dropped by billions of dollars annually, with serious repercussions. The American industries are currently searching for foreign markets. The same is happening in Europe. I read recently that the Italian Government is about to support its defense industries with $945 million. The U.S. industries receive $1.5 billion annually. It is impossible to change over to civilian products in a short time, when the market is falling. Solutions must be found for the people. We are competing for civilian projects. We are trying to improve efficiency. The directorates face serious challenges here. It is very easy to pass judgment, but I believe that such situations call for help. Criticism is good, when it is constructive, and should not be avoided. At the same time, I believe that the objective difficulties should be taken into account. We have to help them deal with the difficulties, while realizing that the workers are part of any recovery plan and that they must understand it. There is no doubt in my mind that no recovery plan can work and no new challenge shouldered without the cooperation of the laborers. [passage omitted]

## Ben-Eli'ezer on Peace Talks, Palestinian Police Force

*TA2504071293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] On the eve of the resumption of the peace talks in Washington, Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said that there is a feeling of shared interests between Israel and the Palestinians. They understand that any freeze in the peace process will not work in their favor and only strengthen Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Minister Ben-Eli'ezer also told Qol Yisra'el that a Palestinian police force was one of the tools the residents of the territories should be given in order to help them implement self-government during the transition period.

## Shin Bet Submits Affidavit on Interrogations

*TA2504143893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] The State Attorney's Office today submitted to the High Court of Justice an affidavit on behalf of the head of the Shin Bet in response to an appeal submitted by the Committee Against Torture challenging the validity of the Landau Commission Report. This report had authorized Shin Bet investigators to use certain types of pressure in interrogations designed to thwart hostile terrorist activities.

In the affidavit, the head of the Shin Bet points out that the nature of the terrorist attacks against Israeli and Palestinian targets worsened last year, and this was mainly evident in the frequent use of firearms and shooting attacks. There were 244 shooting attacks in the Gaza Strip in 1992, compared with 27 in 1991. Such attacks also registered an increase in Judaea and Samaria, but this was more moderate: 266 attacks in 1992, compared with 220 in 1991.

The head of the Shin Bet further notes that in Palestinian terrorist attacks in the past two and a half years, 55 Israelis and 317 Palestinians were killed, while 199 Israelis and 590 Palestinians were injured. He goes on to

say that an increase in terror motivated by religious fanaticism, characterized by high motivation on the part of the terrorists to the point of being ready to die in action, has been particularly evident in the past year. This motivation affects the resistance of the suspects undergoing interrogation.

Last week, a ministerial committee headed by the prime minister approved changes in the interrogation procedures set in the Landau Report, whereby the basis and justification for the use of limited means of pressure by interrogators will at all times be determined by the circumstances. Nevertheless, the procedures stipulate that no pressure should be exerted in order to humiliate, hurt, or torture suspects undergoing interrogation. The procedures explicitly state that it is prohibited to starve suspects, not to allow them to drink or go to the bathroom, or to expose him to heat or cold.

### Iraqi Citizen Shot Dead Trying To Cross Border

*TA2504044393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Excerpt] A man who tried last night to cross the border into Israel and who was shot and killed by Israeli soldiers, was identified a short while ago as a 27-year-old Iraqi citizen. The man was wearing civilian clothing and was not armed. The incident took place near Elat.

Qol Yisra'el's military affairs reporter says that on the two sides of the border, Israeli and Jordanian soldiers carried out searches. Roads in the area were closed, and Elat hotels went on alert. The 'Arava road was also affected as traffic there came to a standstill. [passage omitted]

### IDF Denies Katyusha Attack, Retaliatory Shelling

*TA2404131893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has denied reports from Beirut that terrorists fired katyusha rockets at Israel and the security zone overnight, and that the IDF and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] retaliated by shelling terrorist targets north of the security zone. The spokesman noted that overnight the IDF had fired several shells at terrorist targets in an uninhabited area, and that this was done as part of its regular security activities.

### Four Rockets Fired at Galilee; IDF Returns Fire

*TA2504152093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Several Katyusha rockets were fired in the direction of northern Galilee less than one hour ago. It is possible, however, that they landed in the territory of south Lebanon. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the sounds of the explosions were heard clearly in Israeli settlements along the northern border. So far there are no reports on casualties or damages. The security forces are conducting searches to locate the sites in which the rockets fell. Our correspondent adds that four Katyusha rockets were fired from the village of Yatar, which is under Hizballah's control. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] artillery returned fire.

### Palestinian Sources Say 1 Killed, 40 Injured 23 Apr

*TA2304190693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Text] Residents of Gaza claim that a youngster from Bayt Hanun was killed and 40 people were injured today in the city in clashes with security forces, particularly in the al-Tuffah neighborhood. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Army is checking this report.

## King Interviewed on 'Expectations' for Washington Talks

*JN2404105293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said he hopes the next round of Middle East peace talks, expected to convene in Washington on Tuesday, would focus on continuing the efforts to find a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In an interview with the BBC Arabic Service aired last night, King Husayn also expressed the hope that the new U.S. Administration would play an effective role in the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Asked about his expectations of the forthcoming round of peace negotiations, his majesty said:

[Begin recording] [Husayn] I believe that with the start of this new round, we may see a greater emphasis on continuing the attempt to reach a comprehensive and just solution that can be acceptable, and protected by future generations. There is a new administration in the United States which is concerned about this. And frankly speaking, I think if there is a possibility to reach a solution, then there must be constant, ceaseless action. There also must be an effort to try not to fall hostage at any stage to any party that attempts to prevent or obstruct the achievement of a just, honorable, and lasting peace in the region.

[BBC correspondent Sami Haddad] It is thought that the Palestinians are hesitant about going to the ninth round in Washington. It is even thought that the Palestinian side was forced to go to Washington. Three delegates have resigned, and threats were made against the negotiators by extremist parties in the West Bank and Gaza. Do you not think that the Palestinians were pressured to go to these negotiations?

[Husayn] I can answer this question with a question. What is the alternative? We see the world nowadays preoccupied with many issues. If our effort yields a result, if it yields a positive result, then this is what we wish—to have a comprehensive and just solution acceptable to future generations, a solution that would return rights to their owners and guarantee the rights of all. If the case is the opposite and we meet failure, then I, as an official, feel that we should not bear the responsibility for this failure. I think that our brothers in the Arab world and in the Palestinian arena share the same feeling. There is an opportunity and it is available now, so we must try. There is no other alternative. What is the alternative?

[Haddad] But the Israeli Government, now under Rabin, is not prepared to make any concessions, except probably some kind of self-government. Is this what the Palestinian people and the Arab states hope to achieve?

[Husayn] I think that everyone now is saying that the basic thing is a solution based on the famous Resolution 242. There is some progress regarding the recognition of Palestinian rights on the Palestinian national soil. The best proof of this is that the Palestinians are representing themselves at this phase. There are major difficulties and hardships facing our brothers and kinfolk in the occupied territories, and we are losing sleep over this. We also have the impression that if the talks and negotiations resume, then this time there may be positive things that will be felt by everyone.

[Haddad] Has the United States made any pledges recently to prompt the Arabs to go to Washington? It has stated clearly that it will assume a full role, but has it pledged to achieve the Arab demands concerning the complete withdrawal, and consequently, the Palestinian aspirations of an independent state, knowing that during his election campaign, Clinton has rejected the independent state?

[Husayn] I believe there was discussion and dialogue—which still continue—between the Palestinians, in particular, and the U.S. Administration. Of course, we are in the picture of some of what had happened. We believe, however, that it is still too early to judge that the entire process will fail, and we should not do that. We will, God willing, remain hopeful about seeing progress toward solving this problem, which is the cause of instability in the region and probably the entire world. [end recording]

Asked about his majesty's view of Arab solidarity after the Gulf war, His Majesty King Husayn said:

[Begin recording] [Husayn] I think that the desired solidarity can be achieved only through mutual trust, and only when the Arab individual feels his own value and importance and when he is given the chance to be creative and offer what he can.

[Haddad] Out of what you say is your concern for this solidarity, would this concern provide the basis for a Jordanian initiative? Can we, for example, consider Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Amman two days ago the beginning of such an initiative or the beginning of a dialogue?

[Husayn] We consider 'Amr Musa's visit to Amman a blessed step, which we have welcomed. We always advocate dialogue among the brothers in the Arab world. We have tried the impossible and will continue on that path. We believe things must change for the better. We will respond in kind to any step our brothers in the greater homeland take in our direction on the path of the cooperation which is based on trust and concern for the interests of the future generations.

[Haddad] How do you describe your relations with Iraq at this phase and the extent of Jordan's commitments to the UN sanctions?

[Husayn] Sir, regarding this question, we have been, we still are, and will always be concerned for Iraq's unity, and above anything else, we are concerned about the

Iraqi people's right to live a dignified, free life. What do we wish for Iraq? We wish to see a national reconciliation among all parties that constitute the Iraqi family. We wish Iraq democracy. We wish Iraq political pluralism. We wish to see Iraq living in a phase in which human rights in that fraternal country are respected.

[Haddad] Under democracy in Jordan, we notice that the Islamic forces are represented, and take an active part in parliamentary life. Do you think the Islamic elements' participation in parliamentary life may provide a solution to conflicts between Islamic forces and certain Arab regimes, as is the case in Egypt and Algeria, for example?

[Husayn] Political pluralism exists in Jordan. It still may be in its beginnings compared to parliamentary life, but it is a reality, and so is dialogue. To speak about Islamic or non-Islamic movements, however, sir, I wish to say I am a Hashemite Arab Muslim who takes pride in his affiliation and feels it is wrong to generalize. Even in certain cases, when one speaks of fundamentalism, I believe this term is strange because there may be groups that go extremist at certain times owing to a lack of knowledge, to despair, or to the pains that everyone in our Arab homeland feels, but this does not mean that this is Islam. It seems there are attempts to distort and tarnish the image of Islam in this world, and we resist and reject such attempts. [end recording]

## King Interviewed on Palestinian Role, Peace Prospects

*JN2404192293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Interview with King Husayn by unidentified BBC reporter in London; date not given—recorded; in English with Arabic subtitles, processed from the English]

[Text] [Reporter] Your Majesty, here we are, another stage of the Middle East peace process. Our hopes have been raised before and our hopes have been dashed. Are your hopes high again this time?

[Husayn] They are high and I hope they will be high throughout this phase which I hope will finally see us achieve the breakthrough that we have sought for so many years.

[Reporter] What basis have you got for saying that?

[Husayn] There is no other alternative, there is no other option for all concerned on either side of the divide and for the world beyond. So I feel that there is a realization by all concerned that this is it, we must really move to secure the kind of peace that future generations can live with, and protect, and accept.

[Reporter] Because we get the impression that the Palestinians are actually going to these talks reluctantly under pressure from Arab governments including your own, and also because they know that they haven't really got the support of Palestinians in the occupied territories. [sentence as heard]

[Husayn] I think conditions, it is fair to say, are intolerable in the occupied territories. The situation becomes worse as people are driven to despair. So let us hope that these negotiations will provide the window of hope that all deserve and need. I believe that the delegation that is going, is going with conviction and manifesting great courage. We provided the umbrella for a joint delegation to enable the Palestinians to speak for themselves regarding their future. I hope that it will be possible for them top do so. More, we will be supportive of Palestinians in trying to secure their rights on their soil. And we are for a comprehensive settlement of the problem and we will do everything we can towards that end. Let us hope that the elements of opposition to the only worthy cause, a just and durable peace in the area on either side of the divide, will not succeed in destroying this chance for all concerned in the area.

[Reporter] But do you really think the delegation has the support of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank?

[Husayn] It is a challenging moment and all depends on the results that are achieved in the coming year talks. I hope also that it will be possible to work out a way that will enable us to continue these talks—all the parties concerned—and that we will not fall hostage in the immediate future for any further action on the side of any to try to derail us from trying to achieve our objectives.

[Reporter] Because we have Mr. Rabin saying he is in no mood to make any concessions to the Palestinians, either on deportations, on the closure of the territories, on conditions inside the occupied territories. It is as if all the time Israel knows that it has got all the cards stacked in its favor.

[Husayn] If the results is failure, and I would hate to contemplate what that means, in terms of results, I hope that it is not the Arab side that is to blame for assuming a role in producing such a disaster. So we will have to wait and see.

[Reporter] But do you think you have had, as it were, a better deal out of a Labor government in Israel so far than you had of a Likud government?

[Husayn] It is too early to suggest that such is the case.

[Reporter] Because some of the people say they can see no difference between the approach between Mr. Shamir and Mr. Rabin except Mr. Peres saying: You can have self-rule, you can empty your own dustbins, drive your own buses, but basically you are not going to get independence.

[Husayn] I think that the basic differences, regarding the previous government in Israel. It started the process. It probably was not convinced that it should be in power

when it achieved any of the objectives that were obviously the (?role) of all others, in terms of the solution based on 242, land for peace, the occupied territories of '67, Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil. They may have had the impression, or the idea, or the belief that all that territory was Israeli. Now we see a different approach. How it all works out, I really don't know but I know that we are seeking a solution that future generations can live with, can protect, can feel has given them a chance to live in peace in that region. And we have had too many obstacles at the very outset but let us hope right now that we will proceed.

[Reporter] What specifically does Jordan want out of these talks now? Are you still hopeful, one day you will get East Jerusalem back?

[Husayn] East Jerusalem is a part of the occupied territories. Jerusalem has to become, in the context of peace, the essence of peace between followers of the great monotheistic religions. East Jerusalem was occupied in June of '67. When we speak of Arab Jerusalem, we speak of the rights of Christians and Muslims alike as well. So, in the context of peace I hope the formula will be found, if we have the vision, all of us to ensure that Jerusalem becomes the meeting place, the place where the rights of all are preserved.

[Reporter] You've been on the throne nearly 40 years now. They are just about to celebrate that fact. Aren't you feeling world- weary with all this. We've been through this process time and time again. I asked you at the beginning if you were hopeful, you said: Yes, very hopeful. But aren't you beginning to feel that this is too much of a burden to carry?

[Husayn] The burden is there and its weight is heavy and has always has been. But one has never lived for oneself or for the moment. And if I succeed in bringing the region closer to peace, this would be the crowning achievement of all the years of my struggle.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, thank you very much indeed.

## Delegate: Coming Round of Talks 'Will Be Decisive'

*JN2404194793 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] A Jordanian delegation left Amman for Washington today to participate in the ninth round of bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks, scheduled to begin at the U.S. Department of State on Tuesday, 27 April. Dr. Jawad al-'Anani told our political affairs correspondent that this round of talks will be decisive. He called on the Israeli side to show good faith and abide by the bases on which the peace process was established.

[Begin recording] [Al-'Anani] As His Majesty King Husayn said, we hope that there will be sincere intentions by all parties in order to support the process designed to achieve a comprehensive and just peace and implement the basic principles on which Resolution 242 was established. This resolution calls for exchanging land for peace.

With regard to the agenda, our position has been very clear. This position stresses the need for Israeli withdrawal from the Jordanian territories. Our position stresses Jordan's rights to the water looted by Israel. It also calls for regaining the occupied Jordanian territories and recognizing the rights of refugees and displaced persons in Jordan. These are the most important and priority issues which we will emphasize, regardless of the nature of discussions which will be made on them. What is important is that, ultimately, we will not reach any agreement unless it is comprehensive for all parties. Various topics were raised in a manner agreeable to all of us.

[Correspondent Kassab Samawi] Dr. Jawad, the U.S. Administration has reaffirmed its commitment to a full partner role. As Arab delegations, will you propose a certain mechanism in order to facilitate the U.S. sponsor's mission?

[Al-'Anani] To my knowledge, this matter has not been seriously discussed. However, it is obvious that a full partner role does not necessarily mean that the U.S. delegation will sit in a room. There are U.S. coordinators who will contact each delegation and follow up on the negotiations daily. The U.S. Administration will give its opinion on the differences in views which may arise. There will also be U.S. attempts to bring views closer on the disputed topics.

[Samawi] What do you expect Arab coordination to be in this round?

[Al-'Anani] In my opinion, Arab coordination has been, and still is, enjoying a high degree of awareness and realization, particularly among the delegations participating in the bilateral negotiations in Washington. I believe that this coordination will continue on a daily basis because what is required now is that we should adopt similar positions, especially since this round will be remarkably decisive. [end recording]

It is noteworthy that Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, arrived in Washington today.

## King Husayn 'Confident' on March Toward Democracy

*JN2404071593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said: The human being is our wealth and we in Jordan shall continue with the efforts to make our country an example to our brothers. We shall continue our march on the path of democracy, pluralism, and respect for human rights.

His majesty asserted that he is quite confident about the democratic march. He said: The next phase will provide

us with an opportunity to reassess things and hold a dialogue within the family to look into our achievements and avoid any mistakes. We can then go for new elections, a new parliament, and a new phase.

In an interview he granted to 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan, editor in chief of the London-based AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, which the paper will publish tomorrow, Saturday, the king said: I have always supported the complete, comprehensive peace that is acceptable to all parties. As far as Jordan is concerned, separate peace is out of question, and we have never considered it. Nor have we ever advocated it.

His majesty said: In this life, the one thing I take pride in is belonging to our Hashemite family and our Islam and Arabism, and in the fact that everything we do in Jordan is out in the open and that dialogue is the course we follow.

Regarding the Arab delegations' return to the negotiating table, His Majesty King Husayn said: As long as we have decided to go, then we must continue and do the impossible against the background of our knowledge of what is rightfully ours. If there is a failure, let the others bear the responsibility for the tragic consequences. We in Jordan will continue to demand our rights and try to put the correct bases for a just and honorable peace which is acceptable to future generations, especially as regards the Palestinian rights. We support the efforts of our Palestinian kinfolk and brothers, who have chosen to speak for themselves.

## Further on King's Statements

*JN2404091793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Apr 93 pp 1,5*

[Text] London (Petra)—His Majesty King Husayn has reaffirmed that Jordan will continue its attempts to be a model for other Arab states.

In an interview with the London-based al-Quds al-'Arabi newspaper to be published Saturday, King Husayn reiterated that Jordan would continue its march on the path of democracy, political pluralism and respect for human rights.

King Husayn told the newspaper's chief editor 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan that he had always supported a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. "A bilateral peace treaty (with Israel) was never a viable solution to Jordan and we never thought of it or never were its advocates," the King said.

The King said Jordan would continue to demand its rights and attempt to lay the sound foundations for a just and honourable peace acceptable by the future generations, particularly in relation to the palestinian rights.

He said the eight rounds so far of Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations did not produce many results, "but we have to look to the future, that if outcome (of the process) was failure.. the consequences will be disastrous for all parties involved in the process, and maybe the world, and therefore the Arabs cannot (afford) to be held responsible for any disastrous effects of the process."

The King described the decision by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to resume the negotiations with Israel as courageous, saying the PLO did not have any other alternative.

"We met in Jordan and discussed the situation and chose to go to Madrid and to provide an umbrella for the Palestinian brethren to participate in the negotiations and now we wish that they will shoulder their responsibilities in a more direct form."

"As long as we decided to go, we have to continue and do the impossible.... and if there was failure others will have to take the responsibilities for any tragic consequences,' he said.

He said Jordan was now passing through its most difficult period in 40 years and "I can say that our aspirations and goals might have been affected in one way or another by issues that made them farther than we imagined; but I think at the same time that the lives of peoples and nations are not measured by 40 years of the life of one human being... our attempts to make our country a model for our brethren will continue, because we are part of the Great Arab World."

"The Palestinian cause, is our cause from the beginning and it will remain so and we will continue our support for our brohers with all our abilities and capabilities and will always be hoping that their cause will triumph," he said.

King Husayn expressed his conviction that the Arabs would overcome the current stage in the life of their nation, stressing that the Arab people should be the source of their leaders who will be working for their interest.

The King expressed confidence in the democratisation process in Jordan and added that people in Jordan, through time and experience, would be able to distinguish between what is good for their country and what is not.

"What I would like to underline in the current stage is that we should address the electorate so that to make them aware of the role they have to perform towards their country because if the process produces fruitful results in Jordan success will exceed the borders of Jordan to be a model for other countries. To accept or reject it, it is up to them but I am confident that all the results will be good by God's will."

In reply to a question that whether Jordan is "threatened" by fundamentalism as is the case with Algeria and Egypt, King Husayn said the Islamic movement in Jordan "is not alien."

"Some might deviate from the path of the majority which might not be approved, he said. But "the decision and the future is for the absolute majority of the people and I am fully confident in the awareness of people. The democratic process is not for persons or a certain leadership, but for everyone and they should behave in a manner that protects their right to a kind life."

The King warned that some sides trying to create from Islam a new enemy to counter and resist and we should be aware of this tendency and its danger not only for Islam and us, but for the world as a whole."

### 'Evil' U.S. Measures Denounced in Friday Prayers 23 Apr

*JN2504141193*

[Editorial Report] Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic at 0915 GMT on 23 April carries live the weekly Friday prayers from Martyr King 'Abdallah Mosque in Amman.

In the 20-minute Friday sermon, preacher Dr. Yusuf 'Ali exhorts Muslims to abide by the teachings of God and his prophet, and asks them to unite in the face of all challenges.

After affirming that all three religions—Islam, Christianity, and Judaism—preach amity and cooperation among their followers, Dr. 'Ali wonders: "If this is the case, then why do those who claim to be followers of Moses, may God's peace be upon him, torture, starve, kill, and deport the Muslim sons of Palestine? Why this siege, supported by those who in the new world order claim to be the followers of Christ, peace be upon Him? Why do we also see them persecuting, killing, and starving Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina? They also are doing the same against Iraq and its people with their unjust economic blockade. There is also what the new world order is doing against Jordan. Part of this is what the U.S. Navy recently did when it prevented ships laden with paper for Jordanian newspapers from reaching al-'Aqabah Port. Are these rolls of newsprint seen as nuclear weapons? Are they biological weapons, or even long-range intercontinental missiles? What has Jordan done to be treated in such an evil manner; this rancorous, treacherous, wicked, and outrageous manner?"

The preacher adds: "We know the intentions behind these treacherous measures. They want to harm Jordan for the honest stand it adopted, under its great Hashemite leadership, vis-a-vis the war that was launched against fraternal Iraq. We also know what is intended from this. It is because Jordan refused to bargain or peddle, and to influence Jordan's noble, principled political stand on pan-Arab and national issues."

Concluding, Dr. 'Ali tells Muslims to "have confidence in your religion and in yourselves because you have right on your side and you are on the right course."

### Party Says U.S. 'Evil Hand' Imposing Siege on al-'Aqabah

*JN2604054893 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Apr 93 p 3*

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) party Sunday attacked the United States for its continued blockade of al- 'Aqabah seaport and the inspection of commercial ships, including those loaded with paper for the press. In a statement issued Sunday, the IAF said "the U.S. evil hand has stretched to Jordan to impose a siege on al-'Aqabah seaport.

It (the U.S.) is still pursuing the policy of searching commercial ships, even those carrying paper for the press, in an attempt to influence the freedom of expression and the democratic march."

The statement added "while America nurtures and protects Zionism and is serving as its strategic ally, it is putting pressure on Arab countries bordering Israel to attend the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks, despite the failure of all previous rounds." The front said the U.S. was acting as the one and only master "who owns the sea, the land and the air" and that it is trying to subjugate the will of people.

This is a new colonialism which we reject, and call on all nations of the world to resist," the statement said.

The IAF said it considered the blockade of al-'Aqabah and the inspection of all ships bound for this part as an intervention in Jordan's national sovereignty; "an insult to the dignity of the Jordanian people and a flagrant intervention in Jordan's internal affairs."

The statement noted that the U.S. measures are a "declaration of war on Jordan's economy and the people's moral."

It called on the U.S. to stop its aggression and intervention and urged the government to "adopt a firm stand to defend the dignity of the Jordanian people."

"Subjugation to the U.S. policy, and its tempting and terrifying methods to force the Arab countries bordering Israel, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to attend the ninth round of peace talks is a political mistake," the statement said.

It urged the PLO leadership to withdraw from the Arab-Israeli negotiations, describing them as "elusive and mirage-like."

It also called on the Jordanian people, the Arab and Islamic nations and the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories to confront the policy of normalisation "which the U.S. is trying to impose on our people, just to serve the Zionist objectives and to ensure Israel's expansion at the expense of Arab land, and the future of the Arab Nation."

### Paper Reacts to Israeli Officials' Remarks on Peace

*JN2404115493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Give Peace A Final Chance," AL-DUSTUR says: When [Israeli Prime Minister] Yitzhaq Rabin and his Foreign Minister Peres speak about peace this does not mean that Israel has accepted peace in accordance with a comprehensive solution on the basis of international legitimacy and its resolutions and on the basis of respecting the Palestinian people's political and human rights in the occupied territory. While speaking about peace, Rabin and Peres insist on the policy of maneuvering and ignoring the bases of a just and comprehensive solution, particularly with regard to the principle of land for peace, withdrawal from the occupied territory, the issue of Jerusalem, ending the suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation, and stopping deportation, repressive practices, siege, and starvation.

AL-DUSTUR adds: The Arab parties' response to the call for resuming the peace talks has reflected a positive stand, a united negotiating position, a serious commitment to a comprehensive solution, and concern for providing a new opportunity to achieve the objective of the peace process; namely, a just, lasting, and comprehensive settlement. Thus, the Arabs prove that they are true advocates of peace and seek to achieve security and stability in the region for the sake of its people's future. By ignoring the basic legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, Israel proves that it continues with its destructive course toward peace and with its attempts to force this people to surrender.

AL-DUSTUR says: Despite the difficult decision to head for Washington made in view of Israeli and American pledges that may not be implemented, the Arabs and Palestinians want to give the peace process a new chance and maximum dimensions before deciding that it is a failing process. Therefore, Washington shoulders a big responsibility because it pledged to play the role of a full partner and to adhere to the principles defined by the Madrid conference; namely; land for peace, recognizing the Palestinian people's political rights, withdrawal from the occupied territory, and achieving a comprehensive solution on all fronts in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions and rules.

Concluding, AL-DUSTUR says: If Washington does not rise to the level of this responsibility by pressuring Israel to stop its political, military, and inhuman practices, the next round of talks will be doomed to failure and this historic opportunity to lay down the pillars of peace based on justice in this region will be wasted.

### Abu-Jabir, al-Sahhaf, PLO's Qaddumi Depart for Karachi

*JN2404081493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir left Amman today for Karachi at the head of a Jordanian delegation to attend the Islamic states foreign ministers' conference, which is set to open meetings there the day after tomorrow, Sunday. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf also left on board the Jordanian foreign minister's plane to lead his country's delegation to the conference.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, al-Sahhaf said that Iraq will call on the Islamic foreign ministers to ease the economic blockade imposed on Iraq and to allow 2,000 Iraqi pilgrims to travel annually on board Iraqi Airways planes to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, especially since their health conditions do not allow them to travel via land.

He added: Iraq is not satisfied with the Islamic states' stand toward the Iraqi people who are suffering from the economic blockade imposed on them.

The Iraqi foreign minister stressed that Iraq supports every joint action in favor of the nation and its interests, and which aims to eliminate injustice against it.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, also left on the same plane to lead the Palestinian delegation to the aforementioned conference.

### Prince Hasan Meets South African Foreign Minister

*JN2304192793 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received yesterday the South African foreign minister, Roelof Botha.

Mr. Botha arrived in Amman from Qatar as part of a tour of the region.

Mr. Botha briefed the crown prince on political developments in his country, as well as the policies leading to the improvement of the political climate and the adoption of constitutional reforms and general elections in South Africa.

During his stay in the country, the Jordanian side will propose ideas on the prospects for future cooperation between the two countries. The Jordanian side will propose ideas to establish links with the South African Islamic community and other relevant groups with the aim of conducting specialized dialogues on interfaith, understanding, and human rights.

Jordanian officials and nongovernmental institutions have always viewed contacts with South Africa within the context of international as well as pan-African stands.

### Head of Talks Delegation Leaves for Washington

*NC2404073193 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the bilateral negotiations, has described the current stage as delicate. He said the next round of negotiations will explore intentions and true stands and will yield results that will judge the intentions and future of the talks.

Shammas has left for Washington to lead the Lebanese delegation to the ninth round of negotiations, due to begin 27 April. He stressed the principles of the Lebanese and Arab stands, saying: We we are going to fight a battle for peace. He asserted that the Lebanese and Arab negotiators proceed from a strong position because we are right and we seek a just and comprehensive peace.

### Buwayz: Arabs Counting on U.S. Pressure on Israel

*NC2404104093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has asserted that restoring national confidence in not easy and that rebuilding institutions is not as easy as some imagine. This, he said, requires extraordinary governments and a state vision, which we lack.

Speaking on Voice of Lebanon Radio's "Saturday Salon" program, he said: As Arab negotiators, we do not count on Israel's way of dealing in the negotiations but on U.S. pressure on Israel. He added that the next round will be decisive and he called for unconditional implementation of Resolution 425. He also called for forming a military committee tasked with programing the implementation of this resolution.

On creating an Expatriates Ministry, he said: I was not enthusiastic, nor did I reject the principle at the beginning on condition that a series of controls exist. The draft bill to set up the ministry has met this requirement and we will try it.

Buwayz said that, as Lebanon united, expatriates should also unite. He noted that the Cultural League's problem must be solved politically and he called for establishing a new cultural league, bearing in mind several legal considerations.

On what is said about Christians' frustration, he said the Christian situation suffers from a problem as does the Muslims' situation, the reason for which is transformation from war to peace. He noted that the solution lies in Lebanon, not abroad. Twenty years of war in Lebanon, he said, have led to the appearance of some leaders and the demise of others and as the war ended, some leaders failed on the popular level while others failed politically. Buwayz called for new leaders who believe in national action.

### Israeli Shelling Possible 'Warning' to Deportees

*NC2504200393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Israeli artillery bombarded Majdal Silm this evening, injuring Khadijah Najib Yasin. Earlier, Israeli and South Lebanese Army artillery shelled Kafra and Yatar.

Shells also landed near the Palestinian deportees camp in the Marj al-Zuhur area. Security sources said the Israeli shelling may be a warning to the deportees, who said that they will stage a new march toward the Israeli lines tomorrow to protest the resumption of the peace talks in Washington.

### Troops Open Fire on Deportee Marchers

*NC2604115393 Paris AFP in English 1126 GMT 26 Apr 93*

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, April 26 (AFP)—Israeli troops opened up with heavy machine gun and tank fire on Monday to keep back 400 Palestinian deportees marching to protest the resumption of the Middle East peace talks.

The 396 deportees halted just 300 metres (yards) from an army position at Zummarayya as soldiers raked the rocks around them with machinegun fire and lobbed six tank shells which exploded nearby.

Spokesman 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said the march was in protest at the return of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, which resume in Washington on Tuesday.

The men marched on the Zummarayya checkpoint, at the entrance to Israel's "security zone" in south Lebanon, from their camp two kilometres (a mile) away in no man's land. They planned to stage an all night vigil near the crossing point.

The deportees braved shellfire on April 16 in a march on the checkpoint, and three were wounded in a similar demonstration in December shortly after their expulsion by Israel.

The talks were suspended after the expulsions, and the deportees say the return of the Palestinians to the negotiating table is a betrayal.

### Birri Deplores Israeli Military 'Escalation'

*PM2304112293 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 23 Apr 93 pp 16-17*

[Interview with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri by Ahmad Zayn in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Zayn] How do you view the situation in southern Lebanon?

[Birri] An initial reading of the results of the Israeli attacks in March, for example, will show that nine

Lebanese were martyred and 29 wounded. This is in addition to the escalation of Israeli practices inside the occupied Lebanese territory and the arrest of nine Lebanese, who have joined a contingent of more than 300 Lebanese prisoners, among them about 32 held in the Israeli enemy's jails inside the occupied Palestinian territories in Beersheba and Ashqelon, and about 12 women and girls.

These prisoners represent a living picture of the reality of the aggression and the reality of international silence toward what is happening in southern Lebanon and toward occupation authorities violating all international laws and conventions, from the occupation of others' territory by force to the establishment of administrations and detention centers, the imposition of economic normalization on inhabitants, and their separation from the rest of their nation.

Over the past two days, Lebanese territory has become a theater for live rounds from Israelis helicopters—pointing to a gradual escalation in the aggression method so as to coincide with the date set for the Washington negotiations, as though Israel is seeking to create a new fait accompli.

In response, the Lebanese position is to adhere to Lebanon's right to use all means to recover its land, especially as it is in possession of an international resolution—Resolution 425.

[Zayn] But do you believe there is a realistic possibility of implementing that resolution?

[Birri] We should work to liberate Resolution 425 from the negotiation process, because linking this resolution with the results—that is if we assume that the negotiations are going to lead to a settlement—would lead to keeping the Lebanese peace divided and hanging at the contact lines set up by Israel between the occupied and liberated Lebanese areas. And that means that Israel would be able to continue to squeeze Lebanon and create problems of security, military, social, and economic nature for Lebanon. [passage omitted]

[Zayn] Do you believe that the elements for implementing Resolution 425 are available?

[Birri] Certainly the two main elements, that is the international elements, namely the international emergency forces, and the local elements, namely the Lebanese Army, are ready to deploy south from the international borders. What obstructs this deployment is Israel's refusal to implement the international resolution.

It is worth noting that the Lebanese Army, which is entrusted with the security and defense task, has carried out this task fully, with the agreement and support of all Lebanese parties. And as is known, the international emergency force has been waiting since March 1978 to play its role in accordance with Resolutions 425 and 426.

[Zayn] There is a Lebanese aspect to the deportees issue. It has been noted that this issue is being ignored and dealt with in the context of reshaping the Palestinian position in the negotiations. What is your opinion?

[Birri] Lebanon adopted a position which considered the deportees issue an Israeli responsibility, that is in the legal, political, and humanitarian sense. [passage omitted]

## Hizballah's Shaykh 'Ubayd on Prisoner Exchange

*NC2304153493 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0845 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Second part of interview with Hizballah leader Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] This television interview will be broadcast in Lebanon. Your family will see it and know that you are at least in a normal, reasonable condition. Can the same be said of Ron Arad? Could he be interviewed or a film clip shown about him to reassure his family?

['Ubayd] The question is not clear. Are you asking me if I want this to happen or if this is favorable and could happen? I hope the families of all prisoners or captives, be they Arad or anyone else, can find out about them—at least hear their voices, see their faces, or receive their letters and news, particularly through the Red Cross, the famous humanitarian organization.

[Correspondent] Speaking of Ron Arad and the Israeli captives, Israel explicitly and unequivocally said it was ready to exchange you and 200 other Lebanese prisoners for him. I really do not understand why this offer, which has often been repeated, has not been accepted. Why do you think the exchange did not happen?

['Ubayd] There are several reasons: First, the party that holds Arad and the other captives is not a state; the captives are held by organizations. Second—and I learned the views of some captives from newspapers—prisoners of war are differentiated from kidnapped hostages. All the foreign hostages in Lebanon have been released. So, they do not equate the two types of captives. Third, the two missing Israeli soldiers are held by the Islamic Resistance-Hizballah and the navigator is held by another party, namely, Amal-the faithful resistance. This, perhaps, leads to various decisions and means there are different interests. Perhaps all these reasons helped to delay the exchange. Naturally, it is in the interest of every side that the exchange take place, without attention to nomenclature—captive, hostage, or whatever—so that everybody can return to his family.

[Correspondent] Do you understand why they want to swap you? Do you know why? Do you actually agree with their insistence in Lebanon on swapping you and 200 prisoners for Ron Arad? What is your stance and do you agree with what the people in Lebanon insist?

['Ubayd] Regrettably, this issue is not in my hands. I hope the exchange will take place and satisfy every side. But, whether or not I agree, is not up to me, because I am a prisoner. The other side decides. I reaffirm that the release of any number of prisoners will be an excellent measure. But the process should not take a long time during which, perhaps, anyone might die or suffer an accident—something natural. Then the exchange would be among dead people.

[Correspondent] Your Eminence, you were a member of an organization that took hostages. Has your stay in prison all this time affected your stance in this respect? Has there been any change in your view on hostage-taking and so forth?

['Ubayd] First, the known Hizballah organization is not directly responsible for hostage-taking. Other organizations or groups were responsible. If I belong to a certain organization, this does not mean I agree with taking hostages in Lebanon. Perhaps the interviews before I was taken prisoner illustrate this. Besides, the kidnapping of any person, from his home, workplace, or anywhere, is naturally regarded as restricting people's freedoms. No rational person, Muslim or otherwise, approves of it. This is why I did not need to be detained or kidnapped to change my view against hostage-taking and kidnapping.

[Correspondent] Wasn't it Hizballah that arrested, guarded, or held all the hostages? I had the impression that Hizballah held the hostages.

['Ubayd] It was not Hizballah as an organization, but religious groups with inclinations similar to those of Hizballah. I am sure it was not Hizballah.

[Correspondent] Looking back, do you believe that acts like hostage-taking and blowing up cars served any goal?

['Ubayd] Taking hostages, foreign or others, and committing subversive acts benefit no one. Such acts do not serve any goal. What could be useful would be a normal military confrontation between an attacker and a defender.

[Correspondent] I gather form this that although you have been in Israel for quite some time, mixing with a particular group of Israelis, and hearing what Israel truly is, you still consider Israel to be an enemy, something bad or negative?

['Ubyad] That Israel is an enemy is not something I can decide on my own. This is established. I said we have references—history—and it is a question of religion. We act on the basis of a religious, not personal, premise, although national and other premises affect the issue. We proceed from a religious premise. When you occupy others' land, my land in Lebanon, I consider Israel as an enemy.

[Correspondent] Have you changed your view because of your circumstances for such a long time?

['Ubyad] To be true to myself, I maintain that no one can imagine that captivity would make me change and view the enemy positively. Had it not been for my realistic view before detention, perhaps my views would have become more negative in captivity.

[Correspondent] Can you elaborate or clarify your views regarding the negative change caused by captivity?

['Ubayd] I am sorry, perhaps there is a misunderstanding or lack of accuracy. I don't mean to say I have changed for the worse. I specifically said that had it not been for my realistic view before my captivity, perhaps as a captive, I might supposedly have become more negative. My previous realistic view is that I knew Jews, Israelis, Israel, and Israeli schemes and goals. I have not become more negative in captivity. I consider my experience to be normal. There has been nothing I did not expect; I am a person who knows his enemy and how to treat it.

[Correspondent] Peace talks continue between Israel and Lebanon, the Palestinians, Jordan, and Syria. Do you believe reconciliation and peace are possible between Israel and its Arab neighbors and other Arab countries? Is this possible?

['Ubayd] My answer contains two points: First, I am not one of those planning Arab policy or the policy of good neighborliness or one who is concerned with the negotiations. I was not invited to the talks and I have nothing to do with agreement or disagreement. The question should be put to the negotiators or Arab leaders, Arab countries, and Israel to determine whether they have sincere intentions about peace. From all that I read before and since the peace conference convened, it seems there is movement. The negotiators believe there is progress in the stance of this or that party. This is considered to be rubbing ointment onto wounds, that is, the statements do not completely reflect what is going on in the negotiations. My view is that the issue does not require negotiations, but requires every party to assert its full rights. When everyone does that to the full, anyone who transgresses the right would be considered an aggressor. The world can arbitrate, as happened with Kuwait. When Iraq invaded Kuwait, the world interceded and repulsed the aggressor. An aggressor should be stopped and everyone should obtain his right. Unless everyone obtains his right, there can be no peace in the region.

[Correspondent] Do you conceive that Israel can live with its Arab neighbors in peace?

['Ubayd] If circumstances change. According to logic, beginnings determine conclusions. What we are enduring is a result of the circumstances all around. If circumstances change, the situation will change.

## Foreign Minister Discusses Peace Process

*JN2304190893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1735 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Salim Badawi; place and date not given—recorded; from the "The Event" program]

[Text] [Badawi] Your Excellency Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar', there has been high-level coordination recently among the Arab parties participating in the peace process. This coordination materialized mainly in Damascus to support the Palestinian negotiators. In your opinion, why did the Arab parties think it necessary to have such high-level coordination?

[Al-Shar'] Syria has always called for Arab coordination and solidarity, as well as for the unity of Arab ranks and agreeing on the basic lines related to the unity of the Arabs and preserving their national security and basic interests. Therefore, it is not strange that Syria should assume such a role at every juncture to unify Arab stands toward major issues, especially the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem. From this angle, we can say that the Damascus meeting was not a simple one. However, after hard work and intense contacts we eventually managed to reach a unified Arab stand within a unified vision and a realistic, principled understanding of the next stage of the peace process. You know that the Arab situation at present is not at its best. It is in bad shape, especially since the end of the Gulf war, considering its effects and serious repercussions on the Arab world and on Arab citizens in every Arab country. The West, in general, especially the countries that took part in the Gulf war, think that the Arabs, without exception, were defeated in this war. It is regrettable that some Arab countries that supported the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait also considered themselves to be defeated. However, it is even more regrettable that some Arab countries which opposed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and strongly insisted on implementing the Security Council resolutions considered themselves greatly indebted to the Western states which helped the Arabs liberate Kuwait. This has created a situation which has not been witnessed in the Arab world for many decades. We in Syria are aware of all the contradictions in the Arab arena, as well as the wrong Western conclusion that the Arabs were defeated in the Gulf war, especially since Syria has taken a clear position toward the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and insisted on the implementation of Security Council resolutions. Syria, in particular, is aware of all these contradictions and is working to make the entire world understand that there are Security Council resolutions issued for the Arabs and that the Arabs also have usurped rights and occupied territory that must be restored.

[Badawi] Your Excellency, let us return to the coordination in Damascus this week. How long will this coordination continue? What are the appropriate ways to maintain such coordination?

[Al-Shar'] I want to comment on this. The present Arab situation must be closely analyzed, so that we can maintain any unified Arab position which we take at any phase or historical juncture. We have managed to come up with a unified position at the Damascus meeting. We should continue to maintain this position in the next stage. Our position was clear for the brothers who participated in the Damascus meetings, and I believe that they have fully realized the importance of preserving Arab solidarity and a unified position. We also voiced a similar opinion at the Arab League meetings held recently in Cairo.

[Badawi] Indeed, in these meetings, there were ideas about Arab reconciliation, but it was observed that there were Arab parties which are still not eager to discuss this issue. Do you think the current Arab situation and challenges facing it can allow inter-Arab relations to remain the way they are today?

[Al-Shar'] We do not think that there are Arab parties which are not interested in reconciliation. They might have some reservations or fears. However, we in Syria believe that despite the great tragedy and the serious repercussions of the Gulf war on the entire Arab nation, we must not stop at these repercussions and negative developments. On the contrary, we should work continuously to revive Arab solidarity on more realistic bases and stronger commitments on the part of all Arab states, as well as based on a deeper understanding of international developments and how we can redress this serious flaw in the Arab arena, without giving up principles or the basic common interests of Arab states. We expressed this opinion at the Arab League meetings, and we continue to express this opinion. President Hafiz al-Asad does not let any important occasion pass without affirming the importance of reviving effective Arab solidarity that can unite this nation and restore its status in the regional and international arenas.

[Badawi] Arab-Arab differences are sweeping the Arab world, as you have just mentioned. Take, for example, the Sudanese-Egyptian border dispute, in addition to the tense relations between some Arab countries, which have continued since the end of the Gulf war. Do you think there is a possibility to generalize the coordination held to save the negotiating process with Israel to include Arab-Arab relations?.

[Al-Shar'] We believe in the possibility of generalizing this approach to tackle Arab differences. We, in Syria, have made immense efforts to achieve reconciliation between the brothers in Egypt and Sudan. We hope that the two brotherly countries will find a suitable and acceptable solution to this dispute. We have also been making efforts to remove any irregularities in Arab-Arab relations, including the misunderstandings or sensitivities or disputes. This is because the future of the Arabs depends on their unified stand and vision, whether now or in the future. The Damascus meetings have shown that this is a constant approach on the part of Syria. Syria always reviews all developments at any juncture, and

does not stop at personal or private matters but takes the interests of all Arab states into considerations.

[Badawi] Do you think this can happen through reviving the role of the Arab League?

[Al-Shar'] The Arab League no doubt plays an important role. Most, if not all, Arab states can activate this role and give it more dynamism to enable it to proceed in the face of various challenges, foremost of which is, of course, the peace process and the need for it to achieve the desired results, including full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and ensuring the national rights of the Palestinian people. Arab solidarity can also repulse any foreign threats to any Arab country. Therefore, all Arabs have a common interest in their solidarity and reestablishing realistic, balanced relations that serve the higher interests of everybody.

[Badawi] Thank you, Your Excellency Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar'.

[Al-Shar'] You are welcome.

### 'Positive' Arab Decision on Talks Lauded

*JN2304122393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Press review]

[Text] In their commentaries and political analyses today, the papers discuss the outcome of the Damascus coordination meeting of foreign ministers from Arab states directly involved in the peace process.

In a commentary entitled "The Arab Decision," AL-THAWRAH says: The foreign ministers of Arab states directly involved in the peace process have ended their Damascus coordination meeting with a new, positive decision that confirms the Arabs' commitment to a just and comprehensive peace bases on the full implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The ministers also denounced Israel's attacks against Lebanon and its settlement and oppressive policies in the occupied territories, and called on the U.S. administration to deliver in full its pledges regarding the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that this positive decision by the Damascus meeting has a very significant meaning: The peace process must continue on the right course despite Israel's attempts to divert it and squander all available opportunities for boosting that process and making it realize its principal objective of establishing a comprehensive peace based on right and justice.

The paper notes that Israel's policy of intransigence, as well as its procrastinations, evasion, distorted interpretation of the principles of peace, attacks on Lebanon, and oppressive practices against the Palestinian people have placed major obstacles in the face of any progress in the peace process, despite the many rounds of talks and international efforts to boost that process.

AL-THAWRAH says progress in the peace process is conditional on a radical change in the Israeli position on peace and its concept. Israel, the paper says, must accept all the requirements of peace and accept the land-for-peace principle and declare a full readiness to begin complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognize legitimate Palestinian rights in implementation of UN resolutions.

The paper also discusses the responsibility of the two sponsors of the peace process. It says: They have a responsibility to provide the necessary means and measures to force Israel into bringing about the required change in the substance of its thinking and conduct toward the peace process. The United States, which shoulders the greatest part of this responsibility, must force Israel to submit to international will and respond to the requirements of peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes its commentary by saying: With the decision they made at the Damascus coordination meeting, the Arabs have provided another opportunity for the peace process and confirmed that they are advocates of a just and comprehensive peace.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH asserts that the outcome of the Damascus meetings has demonstrated a united position and fate. The meetings have also embodied the coordinated action based on solidarity, raising it to the level of the challenges in a manner that ensures an impregnable and rock-solid Arab position vis-a-vis all attempts at infiltration, which Israel has been wagering on to impose and achieve its own goals.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The Damascus meetings have foiled all designs Israel had planned to achieve through the talks and the attempts to torpedo them. The Damascus meetings have also provided a decisive, responsible Arab position which underlined the conditions for the just peace and the requirements for a successful peace process, as well as adherence to its terms of reference.

The paper says: The Arab ministers have stressed the legitimacy of resistance against occupation and emphasized the legitimate right to self-defense in accordance with the UN Charter and international law. That assertion was accompanied by a warning against the continuation of Israeli practices and Israel's pursuit of the course of escalation and obstruction. The ministers also held Israel responsible for these irresponsible acts. Furthermore, the ministers' assertion constitutes an open letter to the world community and the peace process cosponsors to tackle the serious and deteriorating situation before its too late. This means that the two sponsors will have to face their responsibility and commitments, and adopt the necessary stands and swift measures to put an end to Israel's aggressiveness and flagrant violations, and thus force it to submit to the resolutions of international legitimacy, international law, and the requirements for a just and comprehensive peace.

On the same subject, AL-BA'TH says in today's editorial: The Arab response, as confirmed by the Damascus statement, was very clear and frank. Peace is not for the Arabs alone and there can be no peace unless the Arabs regain all of their usurped territory.

AL-BA'TH stresses that it was clear that the Arab states involved with the peace talks are not alone, but their position was the unified Arab position: No relinquishment of any right and no bargaining on any rights, an end must be put to Israeli aggression, and the major powers must understand that the Arabs will not accept humiliation or relinquish their rights.

### Arab Stand Unified Despite U.S. Pledges

*JN2404084093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN writes today about the U.S. Administration's responsibility toward the Middle East peace process. The paper says: The Arab parties responded to the pressing American calls and gave the cosponsors of the peace process an opportunity to play a positive and objective role in order to save the peace process from Israeli intransigence.

TISHRIN says: Although the United States gave various guarantees and assurances to the Arab parties, particularly with regard to the principle of land for peace and concerning Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 being the basis for a just and legitimate settlement; and despite the U.S. pledge to play the role of a full partner, the basic guarantee for the Arabs remains the unity of deed and word. The foreign ministers, who held a coordination meeting in Damascus, came out with a clear and unshakeable united stand, which aborts any Israeli attempt to evade the requirements of peace.

TISHRIN adds: The Arabs, who will head for Washington on 27 April, will immediately raise the substantial issues, particularly withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territory, recognizing Palestinian rights, respecting human rights, and ending the Israeli violence against the Arab citizens.

TISHRIN says: The Arabs will never allow Israel to exploit their concern for peace and their firm endeavor to achieve it by wasting time in raising issues that are not in harmony with the essence and bases of the peace process. If the Israelis continue their intransigence and disregard of the Security Council resolutions, the Arabs' only option will be to call on the U.S. administration to implement its assurances, guarantees, and role on the ground.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The Arabs are seeking a just, comprehensive, and honorable peace. They have saved the peace talks many times from total collapse by demonstrating concern and patience, hoping that the influential countries in the Security Council, particularly the United States, will shoulder their responsibilities and play their role. In the ninth round of talks, the Arabs expect real progress and an effective American role that is in harmony with its pledges. The Arabs have no choice but to warn that if the world fails to confront Israel, the ninth round will reach a labyrinth, the entire peace process may collapse, and U.S. credibility will be undermined.

### Rabin Statements 'Hindrance' to Upcoming Talks

*JN2504150493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The least that could be said about the statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, as published by Israeli newspapers today, is that they cannot help create the proper climate for rendering the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks, which will begin in Washington on Tuesday [27 April], a success.

In his statements, Rabin reiterated that Israel does not intend to withdraw its troops to the pre-June 1967 borders, and that he intends to maintain the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In addition to this, the Israeli prime minister referred to what he called Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem. Regardless of these ambiguous remarks, which he made in an attempt to demonstrate an insincere concern for peace, whoever carefully examines the Israeli prime minister's statements will easily discover that he has nullified the foundations on which the peace process and the Madrid conference were based—the foundations spelled out in the invitations extended to the parties concerned by the cosponsors of the conference. Besides, Rabin is showing a determination to overlook UN resolutions as well as the U.S. assurances obtained from both the Bush and Clinton administrations to the effect that the peace process will be based on these UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

When he announces that Israel does not intend to withdraw its troops to the pre-June 1967 borders, Rabin implicitly affirms his rejection of Resolution 242, which explicitly stipulates the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. Similarly, when he refers to Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem, Rabin expresses his government's rejection of the international resolutions deeming the decision to annex Jerusalem null and void. In the same vein, when he declares his determination to maintain the siege his troops are laying to some 2 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Rabin provides additional evidence of Israel's determination to persist in its violation of human rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. Worse still, Rabin is indeed providing additional evidence that he is unwilling to mitigate the killing, terrorism, and torture Israeli troops are perpetrating against the Palestinian Arab people. Where then are we to look for manifestations of Israel's desire for peace? Where can one find the

most basic manifestations of Israeli compliance with the terms of reference and the principles agreed upon for the peace process? What has Rabin offered to advance the peace process and render the Washington talks a success? A simple review of the outcome of the talks held during the previous eight rounds of peace negotiations shows that Israel has been maneuvering and prevaricating in its interpretation of UN resolutions at a time when the Israeli war machine was busy repressing the intifadah, in a most heinous manner, in a bid to squash the Palestinian people's national aspirations and obliterate the rights of this people, which are enshrined in the UN Charter and international resolutions.

The Arabs have decided to attend the ninth round of peace talks after having received definite and clear assurances from the new U.S. Administration, reiterating its commitment to the pledges made by the Bush administration which helped convene the Madrid peace conference. Moreover, the new administration underscored its determination to play the role of a full partner in the talks. This will be a positive development if the full partner role means the use of U.S. influence to ensure the implementation of UN resolutions and the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of exchanging land for peace. We do not believe that the U.S. Administration harbors any doubts regarding the Arabs' peaceful intentions, particularly after they have done all that is possible to facilitate the peace process and help it reach its objectives. Likewise, we do not believe that the Clinton administration is unaware of the party which is hampering the peace process and reaffirming day in and day out, in word and deed, its refusal to implement UN resolutions. The Arabs want peace. Over the past year and a half, they have demonstrated this desire, whereas the Israelis have wasted all opportunities for achieving peace. The Arabs submitted positive and constructive ideas and proposals to render the peace process a success. We do not believe that the ninth round of talks will be better than the previous rounds of talks if the Israelis maintain their previous stands and if the U.S. Administration fails to play its role and honor its pledges and promises, which it has undertaken to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

## TISHRIN Calls For 'Effective, Pressuring' U.S. Role

*JN2604065493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Apr 93*

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the peace process, TISHRIN says: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has renewed the U.S. Administration's commitment to the bases of the peace process, including exchanging land for peace, adopting Resolutions 242 and 338 as a frame of reference and a basis for a comprehensive, lasting settlement, as well as giving the Palestinian people their legitimate political rights. This is in addition to playing the role of an honest, full partner in the peace talks.

The truth is that the Arabs have never asked the U.S. Administration to do anything more than implement Security Council resolutions on all fronts of the conflict and play a balanced, objective role that stems from concern for peace, international law, and UN charters.

After noting that millions of Arabs were forced to leave their land in the wake of the Israeli occupation and attacks, TISHRIN asserts that since 1967, the Arabs have been asking the influential member states of the Security Council to achieve justice and implement Security Council resolutions. This has been to no avail, since the West has turned a deaf ear and closed its eyes to the aggravating tragedies in the Middle East. The West, however, was finally delivered from its illusions and shocked into a new awareness by the Gulf war, to find out that Israel is a burden to it and that alliance with it harms its basic interests in the region.

Today, as the ninth round of the Washington talks is about to be held, all signs indicate that it might be the last round if Israel does not engage itself wholeheartedly in the peace process and comply with UN resolutions. The Arabs want Washington to translate its pledges and commitments into deeds and facts.

The paper asserts that the ninth round will be decisive, and that its success hinges on an effective, pressuring U.S. role. The Arabs are not the only party awaiting this U.S. role. The entire world is awaiting this role after it has become fed up with Israel's serious human rights violations, its noncompliance with international legitimacy, its violations of international agreements and charters, and its propagation of the policy of aggression and the law of the jungle.

TISHRIN concludes: Peace in the Middle East is at a crossroads. Its success depends on the materialization of U.S. pledges and international resolutions on the ground, so that the Arabs would restore their occupied territories and the Palestinian people would exercise freely their legitimate national and political rights.

## Al-Shar' Holds Talks in Manama

*JN2404130993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Karachi—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in the Pakistani city of Karachi this morning to take part in the 21st meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers, which is scheduled for tomorrow morning and will last until 29 April.

During his stopover in Manama en route to Karachi, the foreign minister met with Bahraini Foreign Minister Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah. They discussed relations between the two fraternal countries, as well as issues of common interest.

In a statement before leaving Manama last night, al-Shar' said that his talks with the Bahraini foreign minister centered on the peace process, the resumption of the ninth round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington, and the future of these talks in light of Israel's intransigence. He added that the talks also touched on inter-Arab relations and the need to revive and reinforce Arab solidarity in the service of the entire Arab nation. He then praised the outcome of his meeting with the Bahraini minister, describing his talks with him as friendly and brotherly. He pointed out that they had identical views on the regional, Arab, and international issues they discussed.

## Afghanistan

### European Diplomats Arrested by Security Forces

*BK2404141193 Hong Kong AFP in English 1401 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, April 24 (AFP)—Afghan security forces have arrested three European diplomats, Afghan Counsul General Haji Abdul Khaliq said here Saturday, denying earlier reports that the trio had been kidnapped.

Khaliq said the diplomats were taken into custody by security personnel in the Afghan border town of Spin Boldak after they "illegally" crossed into southern Qandahar Province from Pakistan's Baluchistan Province on Friday.

The three were identified as drug liaison officers from Britain, Germany and the Netherlands.

"Penetrating some 20 kilometers (12 miles) inside they were found indulging in photography," the Afghan diplomat told reporters.

Khaliq said investigations were continuing to determine whether the diplomats were on an espionage mission inside Afghanistan.

Denying an earlier report from diplomatic and official Pakistani sources here Friday that the three were kidnapped by armed Afghan tribesmen, he said he had contacted the commissioner of the Spin Boldak region, who said the three were all safe and in custody.

He said he hoped they would be freed after completion of the investigation in the next 24 hours.

### Mas'ud Accuses Pakistan of Siding With Hekmatyar

*BK2404103793 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Apr 93 p 12*

[Text] Kabul, April 23—Afghan Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud has accused Pakistan of siding with Golboddin Hekmatyar in brokering the peace accord for Afghanistan. "The Pakistani intelligence applied pressure in Islamabad to sign the agreement in the interest of Golboddin Hekmatyar and Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party]", Mas'ud said.

"Ever since, there have been doubts about the feasibility of implementing this agreement," he added. Hekmatyar, who is premier designate under the accord, has been locked in a war of words with the Afghan Government. He has demanded that a year-old cabinet led by President Borhanoddin Rabbani be dissolved.

### Defense Minister 'Narrowly' Escapes Death

*BK2404150393 Hong Kong AFP in English 1447 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[By Terence White]

[Text] Jabal-os Saraj, Afghanistan, April 24 (AFP)—Afghan Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and several senior military staff narrowly escaped death Saturday when two long-range missiles fired by anti-government mojahedin exploded just metres (yards) away.

Mas'ud was visiting a military base at Jabal-os Saraj, about 65 kilometres (40 miles) north of Kabul, when the rockets landed near his operations headquarters.

The minister was personally supervising a clean-up operation in which Defence Ministry officials claimed 3,000 mojahedin from Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Eslami [Islamic Party] faction had defected to Mas'ud's forces.

The rockets exploded just 15 minutes after three military helicopters carrying Mas'ud, General Baba Jan, a senior Kabul garrison commander, Yunus Qanoni, defence ministry political spokesman, General Dauran, Chief of Air Force Operations, and journalists, arrived at the army base here from Kabul.

Before the smoke from the second blast had cleared the helicopters had evacuated the base and Mas'ud and his senior staff had taken shelter in an underground bunker.

During the bombardment a mojahedin guard manning high-power binoculars observed a Hezb fire-base on a distant mountain-top.

"We are shelling them but unfortunately our bombardment is not effective," the soldier commented.

Mas'ud's men returned four rounds of artillery fire at the dissident Hezb fire-base.

Earlier Hezb had fired more than 40 rockets in or around Jabal-os Saraj, the troops said.

From his underground bunker Mas'ud directed his men in the field with terse radio commands, ordering them to complete the clean-up operation before night-fall.

It was not clear by what means of persuasion the 3,000 Hezb mojahedin surrendered to Mas'ud.

Some Defence Ministry soldiers spoke of fighting, others of negotiation. The defence minister made no statement, except to excuse himself as he was busy.

Local Hezb commander Zobet Mahboob, who claimed 150-200 mojahedin under his command, said there had been no clashes with Mas'ud's men in his area, but that he had defected after prolonged negotiations.

Mahboob said two months after the April 1992 mojahedin victory over the Moscow-backed Kabul communist regime he had begun talks with Mas'ud.

"We reached the conclusion that after 14 years of Jehad (holy war) there was no need for further fighting," Mahboob stated.

"We fought the communists for an Islamic state. Now we have got it. What is the point for more fighting," reasoned the commander.

Mahboob's men mixed freely with Mas'ud's forces at a Hezb trench and bunker complex guarded by a Soviet-made battle tank.

Mahboob said 250 Hezb commanders in the Shamali area of Parwan Province north of Kabul—most of them in charge of small units—had agreed to defect to Mas'ud because they wanted peace.

"We didn't ask for anything in return for our surrender. Our aim was just to stop the bloodshed," Mahboob said.

The defecting Hezb guerrillas had been under the command of Hekmatyar's right-hand man in the Shamali region, Fateh Mohammad.

Hekmatyar and Mas'ud, long-time rivals, agreed to a ceasefire in March after seven weeks of bloody fighting in Kabul had resulted in a stale-mate.

Locals in Jabal-us Saraj mocked claims of the Hezb switch-around based on moral grounds.

"They got money in order to defect to Mas'ud, otherwise they would never surrender even one post," said a taxi-driver.

"You wait. After the money is all spent, they will rejoin Hezb again," he said.

### Mohseni Says Jihadi Leaders To Meet 29 Apr

*LD2404180193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] In a special interview with a BAKHTAR correspondent, Ayatollah Mohammad Asef Mohseni, leader of Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement] and peace delegation president, said: It is planned that a meeting of the esteemed jihadi leaders will be held on 29 April and will continue for some days so that all parties may resolve all their specific and general problems in connection with the formation of the cabinet.

Esteemed Mohseni gave an assurance that there will be no fighting and added: Afghans are able to resolve all their national problems through talks and understanding. From the bottom of our hearts we ask foreign countries to stop their interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Our state, system,and people do not want to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, whether nearby or far away, and they very much dislike the interference of foreigners.

Answering another question, esteemed Mohseni said: The aim of the meeting of jihadi leaders is to conduct talks on ways of implementing the Islamabad accord and forming a cabinet, and to reach understanding so that current problems may be resolved. Ayatollah Mohseni, who is making efforts as a head of a peace delegation for the implementation of the terms of the cease-fire and the further consolidation of peace, stated, in response to a question: The peace delegation is making comprehensive efforts to ensure that no further fighting takes place among the Muslim people of Afghanistan and that all problems be resolved through talks and understanding.

### Hekmatyar Ready To Attend

*LD2404190793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Golboddin Hekmatyar, the prime minister of Afghanistan, has announced his readiness to attend the coming session of Afghanistan's jihad group leaders.

Speaking to reporters at his headquarters in the Chaharasiab district of Kabul this evening, he said: The only solution to the problems and difficulties of Afghanistan is the implementation of the Islamabad accord. Difficulties should be solved through talks. He added: Unfortunately, two months since the signing of the Islamabad accord, none of its articles has been implemented. For example, contrary to the Islamabad accord, the Parwan region is currently the scene of intense clashes. Hekmatyar denied reports that 3,000 of his Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] forces surrendered in the Parwan battle, describing such reports as psychological warfare.

He once again reiterated his stance that the Defense, Foreign Affairs, and Interior Ministries should be run by councils.

### More Than 3,000 in Parwan Province Leave Hezb-e

*LD2304153893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Text] More than 3,000 armed men associated with Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] yesterday gave up fighting and fratricide and joined the Islamic State of Afghanistan. A military correspondent of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reported to us that commanders, ulema, and dignitaries are among the armed men associated with Hekmatyar's Hezb in Parwan Province, who began joining the Islamic state yesterday. They have officially declared their dissociation with Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], and their villages have completely come under the control of the Islamic state.

This state of affairs continues in the province.

### Spokesman Denies Defections

*LD2404104493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Terxt] Kabul radio announced in a news bulletin last night that the forces of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] and the Supervisory Council clashed in the Parwan area—situated 60 km west of Kabul—yesterday. According to Kabul military sources, after the clash 3,000 of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami forces joined the government forces.

However, a spokesman for Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, contacting the IRIB correspondent in Kabul, denied that 3,000 of the party's forces have given themselves up. He added: The commanders of fronts around Kabul have closed the entrances to Kabul since this morning and do not allow individuals or vehicles to enter the city.

Nevertheless, government sources deny the closure of entrances to Kabul.

### Rabbani Decree Marks Islamic Revolution Anniversary

*LD2404213493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] The presidential press office has told BAKHTAR that a decree marking the victory of the Islamic revolution has been issued by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of Afghanistan. The text is as follows:

To mark the victory of the islamic revolution in the country and the first day of the overthrow of the previous regime on 25 April, and the day of the transfer of power to the Islamic state on 28 April, the following are approved:

1. The dates of 25 and 28 April will be marked throughout the country, by diplomatic missions of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and by cultural circles.

2. Ministries, administrations, corporations, and private and state firms are assigned to mark 25 and 28 April by holding meetings.

3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is assigned to instruct diplomatic missions of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to mark those days officially in line with international protocol.

4. There will be a public holiday throughout the country on 28 April.

This decree comes into effect as of the date of signing and will be published in the official gazette.

[signed] Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

## Bangladesh

### Tension Rises After Verdict for Golam Azam

*BK2304152793 Hong Kong AFP in English 0824 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[By Golam Tahaboor]

[Text] Dhaka, April 23 (AFP)—Police tightened security across Bangladesh as Muslim fundamentalists responded to calls to give thanks at Friday prayers for the restoration of their leader Golam Azam's Bangladeshi citizenship.

Police stepped up security in Dhaka and other Bangladesh towns ahead of Friday's prayers, as Azam's Jamaat-e-Islami party urged its supporters to turn out for the act of thanksgiving, amid warnings by Azam's opponents of fresh campaigns to try him for alleged war crimes.

An anti-fundamentalist group which held sporadic street demonstrations in Dhaka late Thursday following the High Court decision to restore Azam's citizenship, said it would step up its campaign for Azam's trial for crimes committed during the country's 1971 independence war with Pakistan.

Jahanara Imam, chief of the Committee Against Butchers and Collaborators (CABC) of the 1971 war, said Thursday's verdict would not silence their call for Azam's trial.

The CABC will mobilise tens of thousands of people for a demonstration in Dhaka on Sunday, Imam said.

The opposition-backed CABC organised a mock public trial in Dhaka last year at which Azam was found guilty of acting against Bangladeshi independence, as well as murder and rape. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's government termed the trial illegal.

Azam, 71, a Bangladeshi by birth went to Karachi after the 1971 war and was stripped of his citizenship. He returned in 1978 with a Pakistani passport and appealed for his citizenship to be restored.

Azam was arrested early last year for allegedly violating the country's Foreigner's Act by becoming Jamaat's chief.

"Golam Azam is a national of Bangladesh," High Court Judge Anwarul Haque Chowdhury said Thursday. He declared the 1973 government act under which Azam lost his citizenship "bad in law and not maintainable."

The government deputy attorney general Hasan Arif told reporters after the verdict they would appeal to the Supreme Court.

Azam's lawyer A.R. Yusuf said he was happy with the court's ruling and he hoped his client would be freed now

that his citizenship had been restored. A petition challenging the detention of his client was also pending, he added.

At an impromtu downtown rally late Thursday, Jamaat secretary general Matiur Rahman Nizami urged the government to respect the court verdict and free their leader without delay.

Amid slogans of "Allahu Akbar" (God is great) Nizami urged the government not to force his party to launch fresh demonstrations on the issue.

Abdus Samad Azad of the opposition Awami League said his party would continue to fight Azam politically, while government minister and ruling party secretary Abdus Salam Talukder was quoted as saying that everybody should respect the High Court's verdict.

## Police, Anti-Fundamentalist Demonstrators Clash

### Tear Gas, Warning Shots Used

*BK2504064893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0641 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Excerpts] Dhaka, April 25 (AFP)—Police fired teargas and warning shots Sunday to disperse hundreds of anti-fundamentalist demonstrators trying to stage a sit-in protest around the high- security government secretariat complex here.

The demonstrators marched from the Dhaka Univserity Campus and tried to break through police barricades using crude bombs, witnesses said, adding that police responded by firing blanks in the air and teargas.

Demonstrators retaliated by pelting armed riot police and the paramilitary Bangladesh rifles with stones, sparking clashes at several other points where protestors were beaten by police.

The witnesses reported minor injuries among the demonstrators.

Commuters ran for cover and shops and offices closed their shutters in Dhaka, where Sunday is a normal working day.

The opposiiton DHORER KAGOJ newspaper reported Sunday that some 14,000 security personnel had been drafted to face off the demonstrators, demanding the trial of Golam Azam, chief of the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami for crimes allegedly committed during the 1971 independence war. [passage omitted]

Some demonstrators claimed 50 people were injured near the university in police action, but no independent confirmation was available.

Slogan-shouting demonstrators also gathered at several others points, where they briefly tried to push through the barricades.

Security personnel armed with automatic rifles and batons patrolled streets around the downtown secretariat, which houses most government ministries.

CABC convenor Jahanara Imam, along with other opposition political leaders, took up position near the downtown Foreign Ministry and warned that "if the government uses bullets, there will be fire all around."

### Some 200 Injured

*BK2504102493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1014 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Dhaka, April 25 (AFP)—Some 200 people were injured Sunday as police fired warning shots and tear gas to disperse hundreds of anti-fundamentalist demonstrators, witnesses and hospital sources said.

The major clash occurred several meters (yards) from a high- security government secretariat complex, which houses most government ministries.

Demonstrators had planned to stage a sit-in protest around the complex, but activists marched from the Dhaka University campus and tried to break through police barricades using crude bombs, witnesses said.

Police responded by firing warning shots and tear gas as well as baton-charging the angry demonstrators, witnesses added.

Trouble spread to other areas, including the downtown Motijheel business district, Purana Paltan, Gulistan, Bijoy Nagar and the area near the foreign ministry, where activists fought pitched battles with police, leaving some 200 injured, witnesses said.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital sources said 35 people were being treated for multiple injuries and 12 were in serious condition

"Of them, five got bullet wounds, with two on the head," one doctor said. It was not clear if they were injured by police shots.

Witnesses said at least 24 people were detained by police for rioting.

The protest organizers, the Committee Against Butchers and Collaborators (CABC) of Bangladesh's 1971 independence war, are demanding the trial of fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Ilsami chief Golam Azam for crimes allegedly committed during the war.

At Purana Paltan, the demonstrators offered prayers before the clashes.

The CABC had said it would defy a last-minute government ban on rallies and processions and go ahead with with the planned protests.

The 24-hour ban, issued by Dhaka's police chief, went into effect Saturday midnight and commuters were asked to keep off the roads close to the secretariat.

CABC convenor Jahanara Imam, along with other opposition political leaders, took up a position near the downtown foreign ministry and warned that "if the government uses bullets, there will be fire all around."

Demonstrators shouting "Direct Action, light, light, light fire" also damaged a government bus and a passing vehicles.

Security personnel armed with automatic rifles and batons also patrolled streets around the secretariat.

Commuters ran for cover and shops and offices closed their shutters in Dhaka, where Sunday is a normal working day.

The opposition Bhorer Kagoj newspaper reported Sunday that some 14,000 security personnel had been drafted in to face off the demonstrators.

The opposition-backed CABC, which includes writers, artists, journalists, war veterans and families of war victims, has been involved in clashes with police as well as Jamaat activists in Dhaka and other parts of Bangladesh since their campaign started last year, when Azam was declared Jamaat chief.

Azam, 71, a Bangladeshi by birth, went to Karachi before the 1971 war with Pakistan had ended and was stripped of his citizenship in 1973. He returned in 1978 with a Pakistani passport and appealed for his citizenship to be restored.

A court here restored his citizenship last week. Azam had also been arrested in 1992 for allegedly violating Bangladesh's Foreigners' Act by becoming Jamaat chief.

The government is to appeal the citizenship restoration decision, but had repeatedly told the CABC that Azam's fate would be settled according to national law.

The CABC and opposition parties, including the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, wants Azam to be tried by a special court under the 1973 International Crimes Tribunal Act, but Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia said that act had become "inoperative and ineffective.

### More Rohingya Refugees Repatriated to Burma

*BK2304132493 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1240 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Text] Another group of 126 Rohingya refugees returned to Burma this morning. These refugees comprised of 32 families were repatriated from Jummapara and Nayapara transit camps. The UN High Commission for Refugees and repatriation officials bade them farewell. Our Chittagong correspondent reports that so far a total of 22,627 Rohingya refugees have been repatriated. About 230,000 Rohingya refugees lodged in 17 refugee and three transit camps are awaiting repatriation.

### Restrictions on Foreign Currency Withdrawn

*BK2304155593 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Text] The government has decided to withdraw some restrictions on foreign currency in order to diversify the economy, encourage more local and foreign investment, and create a favorable atmosphere for trade. This decision was reached at a high-level meeting of the Bangladesh Bank held today with Finance Minister Saifur Rahman in the chair.

It has been decided that from now on foreign nationals working in Bangladesh and foreign companies operating in the country will be allowed to take local currency loans in any amount from the scheduled banks. These companies will also no longer need prior permission of the Bangladesh Bank to take short term-loans in foreign currency from their headquarters abroad.

From now on industrial units which are 100 percent foreign owned and joint venture units in the export processing zones of the country can freely take loans in foreign currency from abroad.

This high-level meeting also decided to relax many other restrictions relating to foreign currency. It also reviewed the results of the free market policy introduced by the government two years ago. The meeting expressed satisfaction as this policy has started yielding good results and has stabilized the economy. It also noted that a large number of investment proposals are being received.

## India

### Air India Plane Hijacked on Srinagar Flight

### Hijacking Drama Ends

*BK2504021493 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi 0130 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] All the 141 passengers and six crewmen of the Indian Airlines plane hijacked to the Raja Sansi airport in Amritsar were freed safely at about 0115 [1945 GMT] last night. The hijacker was shot and killed in the operation conducted by National Security Guards. The All India Radio correspondent, quoting police sources, has said that the hijacker boarded the plane at the Delhi airport pretending to be seriously wounded. Both of his legs were in casts under which he had concealed two 0.9-mm loaded pistols. Soon after the plane's takeoff, he took out these pistols and ordered the plane's pilot to fly the plane to Kabul. As already reported, the plane was forced to land at the Raja Sansi Airport in Amritsar after Pakistani authorities did not allow the plane to land at the Lahore airport. Later, the Punjab police director general established contacts with the hijacker for negotiations.

Meanwhile, the commando squads of the National Security Guards surrounded the plane. Before storming into

the plane, the commando squads waited for about seven hours for the right moment. After disembarking from the plane, the passengers of the plane gave their impressions about the hijacking to the Doordarshan [Television] News.

According to an official spokesman, the passengers and the crewmen have been shifted to several hotels in Amritsar and a special plane is being sent to Amritsar to fly them to Delhi. Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has expressed his pleasure at the overpowering of the hijacker and the safe release of all the passengers. He has congratulated all the commandos and officials involved in this operation.

### Airport Security Team Suspended

*BK2504093693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] All the 141 passengers of the hijacked Indian Airlines plane have been taken to Srinagar from Amritsar. A special plane carrying the passengers landed at the Srinagar airport about 1030 this morning.

As reported, all the 135 passengers and six crew members of the hijacked plane were freed in a swift commando operation around 0115 this morning. The lone hijacker was killed in the operation at the Raja Sansi airport in Amritsar. The hijacker reported to be a member of the Kashmiri militant outfit had two fully loaded pistols with him. The prime minister has congratulated the commandoes and all other supporting agencies engaged in the successful operation.

The entire team of security personnel on duty at the Delhi airport yesterday have been suspended, pending a high-level inquiry into the security lapse. A PTI report quoting the minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, says that the security network at all the airports in the country is being further tightened. Mr. Pilot assured the passengers that there will be no new security lapses from now. Besides Mr. Rajesh Pilot, the civil aviation minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, and the minister of state for home, Mr. P.M. Sayeed, visited the Delhi airport to oversee the revamped security system there.

### Spokesman: Hijacker Not Member

*BK2404134893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1332 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Srinagar, India, April 24 (AFP)—A Kashmiri separatist group here denied Saturday [24 April] that the hijacker of an Indian Airlines plane was a member of their organization.

"We categorically reject that we have done this hijacking," said a spokesman from the Hezbul Mujahedeen after a man who hijacked a Boeing 737 claimed to be a military commander of the outlawed secessionist group. The Boeing 737 carrying 135 passengers and six crew was hijacked to the northern city of Amritsar on Saturday while on a flight from New Delhi to Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital.

The hijacker, who identified himself as Sayeed Jalaluddin, said he would blow up the plane if it was not allowed to fly to Kabul.

### Commentary on Hijacking

*BK2504041493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Commentary by journalist K.G. Joglekar]

[Text] It must have been a long, long night for relatives and friends of passengers on board the Indian Airlines flight from New Delhi to Srinagar, which had taken off yesterday afternoon. Everyone must have heaved a sigh of relief on knowing early this morning that all the passengers and members of the crew were safe. The commandos carried out a successful operation swiftly and killed the lone hijacker.

While all has turned out well, the hijack raises many important questions about security arrangements at airports. In the recent months, security arrangements have been made more stringent, but, obviously, what has been done is not enough as, otherwise, the hijacker would not have been able to board the plane with arms. Reports suggest that he posed as a seriously injured person with both his legs plastered. The weapons were hidden inside the plaster and he took them out after boarding the plane. If this is correct, it would be indeed difficult to check. But from now on, every genuinely injured person traveling by air would have the militants to blame if he was subjected to a grueling search.

There are reports that as many as 70 passengers who boarded the plane at Palam carried no luggage. This in itself may have aroused suspicion, because at this time of the year Kashmir is very cold. Also, there are reports that 124 out of 135 passengers were booked through just four agents. The high-level probe which has been ordered into the entire incident will bring out whether there is any truth in these reports. Security arrangements will have to be further strengthened to the annoyance and discomfort of genuine passengers, particularly the injured ones. But, in the troubled times in which we are living, this cannot be helped.

The political aspect of the hijack episode has its own ramifications. It was not a childish prank but a well-thought out, well-planned, and well-executed operation. This shows that it was the work of an organization and not a single individual. And why did the hijacker want the plane to be taken to Kabul? There have been reports for some time that with the changed conditions in Afghanistan, the mojahedin have moved out to other areas. Kashmir is one of them. The involvement of the mojahedin in the operations of the militants in Kashmir has made it clear that the real issue is not the right of the

Kashmiri people but an attempt at secession of the state which is an integral part of India.

Saturdays seem to be jinxed for the Indian Airlines. Earlier this year, IAC [Indian Airlines Corporation] planes were hijacked on 22 January, 27 March, and 10 April. They were all Saturdays. Does it mean that the hijackers believe in astrology or it is because they know that security is lax during weekends?

### Airliner Crashes; 18 Survive

*BK2604115693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 26 Apr 93*

[Text] An Indian Airlines Boeing 737 carrying 112 passengers and the crew of six crashed soon after takeoff from Aurangabad airport this afternoon. According to an airline spokesman, the cockpit crew and 34 passengers of flight IC491 have been evacuated so far. The aircraft broke into three pieces and caught fire. The mishap took place just after the Delhi-Jaipur-Udaipur-Aurangabad-Bombay flight took off at 1305 [0735 GMT]. The civil aviation minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad; the chairman and managing director of Indian Airlines, Mr. L. Vasudev, and other senior airline officials have left by a special flight to the crash site. The Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, announced the details of the crash in the state assembly. Indian Airlines has opened a control room in New Delhi for giving details about the crash. The telephone number of the control room is 3295433.

The Lok Sabha was informed that 12 passengers and six crew members survived out of the 118 persons on board the Indian Airlines aircraft which crashed in Aurangabad this afternoon. So far, 40 bodies have been recovered from the debris. Making a statement, the internal security minister, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, said the civil aviation minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, along with the secretary has rushed to Aurangabad to oversee the rescue operations.

### Senior Officials Arrested for Bombay Blasts

*BK2504081693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] In Maharashtra, an assistant collector and two superintendents of customs have been arrested in connection with the recent illegal landing of arms and explosives at Sriwardhan in Railgarh District. An agency report quoting police sources says that these officials allegedly held meetings with Memon, prime suspect in last month's Bombay bomb blasts.

### Arrested Pakistani Agents Reveal Kashmir Plans

*BK2304151293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Text] The Pakistan Army and its intelligence agencies have drawn up an elaborate plan to infiltrate militants into the Kashmir valley in the next few weeks. This was disclosed by the two Pakistani agents captured by the security forces after their infiltration in the Indian territory yesterday. They also disclosed the possible routes of infiltration by the militants. The Pakistani intelligence has already made more than three attempts in the recent month to send militants into Kashmir. Fourteen of these infiltrators have been killed on the Line of Control.

### New Pakistan Government Said in Crisis

*BK2304163493 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Text] Pakistan's interim government of Mr. Balakh Sher Mazari has received a jolt with the National Democratic Alliance [NDA] ministers threatened to resign if the four provincial assemblies are not dissolved. The three ministers—Maulana Kauser Niazi, Mr. Mustafa Jatoi, Mr. Mansur Ahmad Gichki—announced the decision after a meeting of the NDA in Islamabad. They claimed that the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and Ms. Bhutto supported their demand.

Meanwhile, the former prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has demanded that the National Assembly elections scheduled for the 14th of July be held under Army supervision. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad, she said that the caretaker prime minister, Mir Balakh Sher Mazari, had promised to take action on her demand. The Pakistan People's Party leader also demanded that the four provincial assemblies be dissolved and simultaneous elections be held for them. She said that free and fair elections in the country are not possible as long as the present assemblies continue to be in position.

Meanwhile, all the three stock markets in Pakistan at Lahore, Islamabad, and Karachi remained closed yesterday as a mark of protest against the dismissal of Nawaz Sharif government.

### Kashmiri Police Demand Chief's Dismissal

*BK2304115793 Hong Kong AFP in English 0945 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Text] Srinagar, India, April 23 (AFP)—Thousands of Kashmiri policemen took to the streets here Friday to demand the sacking of Srinagar's police chief for his alleged role in the killing of a local constable by Indian border guards.

Enraged policemen took over the main police station, some calling for the lynching of Police Chief K. Rajendran Kumar, a member of the federal police force, for allegedly sanctioning the killing of local constable Riaz Ahmed.

Governor K.V. Krishna Rao called an emergency meeting of senior officials as tension mounted throughout the state between members of Kashmir's predominantly Muslim police force and the Indian Army and paramilitary troops.

Officials in Jammu, the winter capital of Kashmir, said Krishna Rao had rushed to Srinagar to preside over the meeting and that additional military forces had been deployed in the city.

Witnesses said armed police drove through Srinagar's downtown Lal Chowk area in a convoy of eight vehicles shouting "We want justice" before converging on the city's main police station.

They received vocal support from local residents, many sympathetic to Kashmiri Muslim demands for independence from India.

Ahmed was arrested by border guards on Wednesday, according to police sources, and died in their custody after Kumar had reportedly told them to "teach Ahmed a lesson."

Police launched an indefinite strike on Thursday to press for Kumar's removal.

Streets were clogged Friday with cars while border guards hid in bunkers to avoid the angry police.

Kashmir has been ravaged by a four-year-old secessionist campaign. Tens of thousands of Indian Army soldiers and border security troops have been deployed in the Muslim-majority state to quell the insurgency.

### Kashmir Policemen Protest Colleague's Death

*BK2504103693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1007 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Srinagar, India, April 25 (AFP)—Thousands of Kashmiri policemen continued their protests for the fourth straight day here Sunday to denounce the death of a colleague at the hands of Indian security forces.

Some 7,000 policemen, many of them carrying weapons, camped inside and outside the police control room, shouting slogans and threatening to avenge the death of constable Riaz Ahmed, witnesses said.

Another 1,500 policemen began a slow journey in 20 packed vehicles to Ahmed's hometown in Baramullah district, north of here, screaming slogans like: "We want justice."

Many of the policemen were perched on the roofs of buses, and were cheered by thousands of Muslim residents of Srinagar, the summer capital of Kashmir and the urban hub of a bloody Muslim separatist campaign.

A policeman said prayers would be held at Ahmed's ancestral home in Baramullah, a border district known as a bastion of Muslim separatists fighting to secede Muslim-majority Kashmir state from India.

Ahmed, a Muslim like almost all policemen here, was allegedly killed by the federal Border Security Force (BSF) after he was arrested from his house on the outskirts of Srinagar city late Wednesday.

The protesting policemen say he was killed in custody after a Hindu police offier, K. Rajendran Kumar, allledgedly told the BSF to "teach Ahmed a lesson."

Kumar, a Hindu, denied the accusations.

"I want the police and army to investigate (the killing) as quickly as possible," he told AFP over the telephone from his heavily-guarded residence. "If I am found guilty, I should be punished."

"(But) I have done nothing wrong," he added.

On Sunday two senior police officers addressed the policemen outside the bunkers to fight federal security forces if necessary.

Many constables shouted in chorus: "Hang Rajendran, hang Rajendran."

But the thousands of army troops and paramilitary personnel deployed in Kashmir have made no attempt to break the unprecedented police protests or stop the policemen from going to Baramullah.

Army soldiers were patrolling parts of Srinagar, residents said.

A large number of Kashmiri policemen are known to be sympathetic to the campaign for Kashmir's independence that has left thousands dead since it began four years ago.

### Probe Killing Ordered

*BK2304161193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a joint inquiry by the Army and police has been ordered into the death of a police constable on Wednesday in Srinagar. According to an official release in Srinagar today, an ex gratia payment of 1.25 lakh rupees will be paid to the bereaved family. The state government has also offered employment to one male member of the family of the deceased.

### 'Huge' Quantity of Explosives Recovered in Gujarat

*BK2404091893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] In Gujarat, a huge quantity of explosive materials and detonators were recovered near the Ellora Complex in Surat city this morning. Our Ahmedabad correspondent quoting official sources reports that the explosives were destroyed with the help of the Fire Brigade.

### Information Minister Denies Agreement With CNN

*BK2604092693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 26 Apr 93*

[Text] Doordarshan [Television] has not entered into any agreement with the Cable News Network, CNN, of

America. This was stated by the information and broadcasting minister, Mr. K.P. Singh Deo, in the Lok Sabha today. In written reply, he also said that no transponder on ASIASAT could be hired as all of them are already booked.

## Iran

### Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Friday Prayers

*LD2304161893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Sermons by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Friday prayers in Tehran on 23 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] I think the people expect a comprehensive report about the numerous trips I have made over the past year to various provinces. In the past, sometimes there were reports, and sometimes not. However, I think they would be of interest to our people in the first sermon, and that it would be appropriate to bring them to the attention of the public from the podium of the Friday prayers. In the second sermon, I will talk about various issues of this week.

Last year I visited a number of provinces; as far as I remember, they were Khorasan, Esfahan, Hamedan, Zanjan, Yazd, Semnan, and at the beginning of this year Kerman. I also made other short visits to other places. [passage omitted]

My general impression is, thank God, that the Islamic revolution has entered the hearts and souls of the people and has conquered their hearts and thoughts, so that we can be certain that this revolution will continue for a long time to come, until the advent of His Holiness Mahdi. [crowd chants] [passage omitted]

We really should boast about this to the world, and the world should take note of it. After all, it has been 15 years since the nation staged the revolution. Outsiders believe what counterrevolutionaries say to them and think the people are being overwhelmed by problems. They should come and see what is happening and why ours is not like any other country, and is unlike anything to be found in history. [passage omitted]

What phenomenon is this? How can they analyze it? How can they accuse this country, this nation, this system, this revolution, and this government of not observing human rights, or say that there is no freedom in our country? Can there be no freedom in a country in which the people are so pleased and supportive? Some people say that the people may support the revolution, but that problems are another matter. Very well, we are not talking about problems now; we are talking about the revolution when we talk to foreigners. [passage omitted] I say to you, honorable citizens of Tehran and all the country, it really is a great honor for the Islamic revolution to have such public support after 14 or 15 years, despite wars, propaganda, and extortion. I am not saying we have no opposition in the country. Some people might say that there is some. Yes, there is opposition. We have counterrevolutionaries, and we have people who are indifferent. These, however, are the masses. In any case, a percentage of the people could be dissidents for any reason, but the masses are totally supportive of the revolution, and while it enjoys the love of the people, this revolution is invulnerable. I think our enemies are barking up the wrong tree. [crowd chants: God is great! Khamene'i is the leader! Death to America! Death to Israel! Death to Britain! Death to hypocrites!]

The people love the imam. I will tell you the secret and the points of our strength. One important factor is the system itself, and the fact that the system of the Guardianship of the Jurisconsult has been established in the country. This is what our people have loved for many centuries. It has been a part of our existence and our demands. It also has been a successful experience. A centralization has been created for the system within the context of the Guardianship of the Jurisconsult so that a clearly just, brave, and managerial Jurisconsult, the conditions of which are in the Constitution, is at the center of guardianship and the management of the country.

Well, this attracts people's trust. There can be nothing better for the people to trust. They might even see some mistakes. The noninnocent might always make a mistake. Mistakes are seen, but there is such a degree of trust. The Guardianship was manifested earlier in the person of the imam, who was unique in the history of Islam since the time of the imams. And today the Guardianship is manifested in the imam's pious student [reference to Khamene'i], who in my view is the one of the most pious, no, the most pious senior cleric, who today can take this great innocent responsibility. And God granted this to us through the guidance of the imam, for it was he who guided us here. God willing, it will be the same in the future. This was one of the secrets of our success, and may it be so in the future, as well.

There alse are other secrets. People see that the system really serves them. In the past, at the time of the hated Pahlavi regime, some parts of Tehran and several others towns may have felt that the government was concerned with their welfare and were therefore satisfied. Today, however, even the most remote part of the country feels assured that the system has its welfare in mind and that it will be treated justly. The attention paid to towns and villages, and the acknowledgement of people's rights throughout the country are easily felt by the people. They understand this. We do not have to advertise it. [passage omitted]

When I was flying over the country I saw that power lines had reached most of the small villages; they had asphalt roads and many other things they could not even have

dreamed of in former times. In southern areas of Kerman Province, in the middle of the desert and miles from anywhere, people's requests were very reasonable and I enjoyed listening to their demands. In any case, development indeed is much faster in the villages than in our country's capital. [passage omitted]

Of course if we had more industries, capital, and machinery, we would have acted much faster, but we are working with what we have, and everything is moving forward.

Speaking of universities, in the past attention was paid only to universities in Tehran, Esfahan, Mashhad, Tabriz, and Shiraz—nowhere else. Now, however, in any town in which we set foot, there either is a university or one is being built. In Kerman Province alone there are 31,000 university students. Before the revolution that province had only 800 university students, and that was thanks to the efforts of a kind man who built a university there; it was not the government that built it. Now that 800 has reached 31,000. Yazd is in the same situation. Esfahan has twice as many university students as that: 70,000 of them. The same applies to Bushehr. The very existence of universities in such areas is effective; the presence of tutors and students in an area raises the level of people's understanding and a great deal can be done for those areas.

We have a number of important events this week which I will mention very briefly in the second sermon. We also will emphasize a couple of cases concerning the world of Islam and the country. [passage omitted]

We also had Army Day, which is a sacred and fateful day for us. At the outset of the revolution, the opponents of the revolution and our enemies had a very dangerous and disgraceful plan. They intended to dismantle the Army. They began chanting slogans that the Army should be dismantled under the pretext that the same Army had suppressed the Islamic jihad. The slogan seemed correct, but it was deceptive. The imam, with his remarkable cleverness, quickly realized their treacherous intentions. Despite the atmosphere that existed among the hooligans and the pseudorevolutionaries which made making such a decision very difficult—they even had prompted many in the Army to chant slogans for the dismantling of the Army—the imam slapped them in the face, named a day: Army Day, and said: This Army must stay.

The Imam's decision had valuable effects on our history. One example of this was our defense during the war, the results of which we can see today. We also can see that our Army can play an even more important role in the country's reconstruction.

Today we are happy that thanks to that important decision of the Imam, we have a powerful Army alongside the Guards, which is one of our very great armed forces and consists of all those revolutionary and committed Basij [mobilization] forces. They exist beside our military forces, and together they safeguard our domestic and international security.

Thus, after seeing our defensive performance [during the Iraq-Iran war], our enemies are not so easily tempted to violate the territory of our country. [crowd chants: God is great! Khamene'i is the leader! Down with America! Down with Israel!]

Today we are witnessing how these armed forces, which filled the fronts during the war, now are playing an active part in reconstruction while deepening their training and improving their equipment. They take care of the contracts of many of the projects and they benefit and profit from this.

It is important, however, that the machinery, engineers, and human resources of these forces not be wasted, but are made to serve the country's reconstruction. We hope this link will remain always—that the armed forces perform civilian tasks in times of peace, while in wartime the people help with defense alongside the armed forces. This sacred cooperation is the best means of strengthening both peace and war, both reconstruction and struggle. [passage omitted]

Next week, a conference of Islamic foreign ministers is due to take place in Pakistan. The important issues for us today are those of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Palestine. Of course, there are also the problems of Afghanistan, Kashmir, Karabakh, Somalia, and many other places. Our expectation of the Islamic foreign ministers is that they will conduct serious discussions because there is currently a mistaken attitude in Islamic countries, and this should be eliminated. It is the foreign ministers who are responsible; it is they who should offer a solution.

Everyone today looks to the colonialist powers to solve difficult problems, those of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Palestine, Somalia, and so forth. There is a bitter truth that is being ignored. What is happening in the world of Islam has its roots either in these arrogant powers themselves—because it is they who provoked these events—or even if they did not, at least they are profiting from them. When there is a conflict or a war somewhere, they extort money from both sides. Both sides need arms and go buy from them. Both sides need political support, so they have to go and bow their heads to them. Both sides have to fulfill their economic needs from them, so they make profits.

Moreover, the very fact that the world of Islam is plagued with these wounds and is weak benefits these powers. How can we expect them to come and solve our problems? They will go where their interests drive them, as in Kuwait; they saw that oil was in danger, so they came immediately. Elsewhere, well, why should they solve the Kashmir problem? In Bosnia they only act when there is a danger of these problems spreading to other places in Europe.

In what way do the arrogant powers suffer from the current situation in Palestine? It simply has created a cancerous center [kanun] that has made the entire region reliant on them in one way or another. In what way do they lose out from Somalia, or from the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia? If we think they approach these issues for humanitarian reasons, we are wrong. Therefore, I call on the foreign ministers' conference to discuss this issue seriously. We should take the initiative into our own hands. After all, we also some levers, some forces. There are 50 Islamic countries, so we can do great things together; we can make plans and solve these problems by ourselves.

This was never the case before. Our hands were always stretched toward them, and they acted only to the extent that it was in their interest to do so.

It is completely wrong to imagine that they will solve human problems because they are human problems. Right now, look at the incident concerning the Davidian Sect which has taken place in Texas in the United States. In one go, they burned 90 human beings in a building; all of them were killed and were burned to cinders. Apparently only about 10 people were saved. One of those saved is an Englishman. Earlier, it was being said in the United States that they committed suicide, but the Englishman who came out alive said it was the authorities who set fire to the building according to a plan; they brought in tanks, opened fire [ateshbari kardand], and set people on fire. Do you expect a government that is prepared to kill its own subjects in such a way to feel pity for the massacres taking place in Bosnia, Somalia, Kashmir, or anywhere else? They are lying if they say so.

Fortunately, they do admit this. Today or yesterday, a museum was opened in the United States to mark the crimes of the Nazis in Germany; they allegedly committed genocide against the Jews. Of course, this memorial is the work of the Jews, who are engaged in propaganda to portray the Jews as a wronged people. Even there, however, one of the survivors of the crimes of Nazi Germany said that what is taking place in the Balkans now is much worse than the crimes the Nazis committed in Germany. He said the Nazis did not treat children like this, and did not treat women like this. This genocide now in progress in Eastern Europe, in the Balkans, is much less than was committed by the Nazis. This is what that man himself said today. America comes and builds a museum, a memorial for the Jews, but despite all its might it does not go to prevent crimes being committed in the Balkans. What do we expect of them?

We should not have any expectations of them. We should take care of our affairs ourselves. Of course, we do have some expectation from them because they are human beings too. They are members of the human race. They have a responsibility, and they have the power, so they should come to help, but we should not sit and wait for them. If we take the initiative they will follow us so that they are not left behind.

Consequently, we should follow up the problems. We should solve our own problems. We should not sit and expect that the talks and discussions being held in the name of the Palestinians and such like will safeguard the interests of the Islamic world. If we enter the field in strength, they also will come alongside us or behind us; at least, they will not impede us. However, when we simply wait for them to take the initiative, we will achieve nothing. We are mistaken if we think we can solve the problems of the Islamic world in this way.

Unfortunately, some gatherings of representatives of Islamic governments in various places still hope to solve problems through the Western powers. I said we should not expect them to do anything. It is their responsibility and we should have expectations from them, and we should follow this up. The United Nations costs the world a great deal of money, and it takes good care of Western interests, but it should work for us, as well. However, experience has shown that the Westerners are influential and they get the United Nations to do what they want.

If there is a minor incident against their interests anywhere in the world, they engage in so much propaganda they deafen the ears of the world. However, important events like the issues in the Balkans, like the massacre of the Branch Davidian Sect take place. Even in those cases, they blame the victims and those who have been wronged and hold them responsible. They say that the Branch Davidian sect committed mass suicide. This is what Westerners are like. They have power, as well as propaganda loudspeakers.

God willing, thanks to the vigilance of the Islamic world and the awakening of the Islamic community, someday we will be able to arbitrate and to solve our problems by ourselves, within our Islamic family. [passage omitted]

### Velayati Comments Upon Departure for ICO Meeting

*LD2404170493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Tehran for Karachi this afternoon at the head of a political delegation to take part in the 21st meeting of foreign ministers of the member countries of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO].

Before leaving Tehran he told our correspondent that the participants in the meeting will investigate Islamic countries' problems, make a final decision on agreements reached by ICO subcommittees, and also examine the two important issues of the situation of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina and occupied Palestine.

The foreign affairs minister criticized the United Nations and the Security Council for not taking effective measures to stop Serbian aggression. He said: Some members of the Security Council see it as contrary to their interests to take a more serious stance against the

Serbs and as a result the Serbs have become confident that international punishments can never be applied against them in a serious manner.

He emphasized the efforts of the member states of the contact group [keshvar ha-ye ozv-e goruh-e tamas] toward the implementation of ICO resolutions and said the indifference of some Western countries and the United Nations is an obstacle in the way of their implementation.

Velayati mentioned that Islamic countries constitute more than one third of the UN membership and called on Islamic countries to bring pressure to bear on international circles and the Security Council to stop the Serbian aggressions. [passage omitted]

## Naval Forces Commander on Upcoming Gulf Exercises

*LD2504185093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] The Naval Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] and the Islamic Republic Army will be holding 10-day joint maneuvers in the waters of the Persian Gulf as of tomorrow. We have a report:

[Unidentified correspondent] The amphibious maneuvers of the Naval Forces of the Army and IRGC, codenamed Victory-4, will start tomorrow in the waters of the Persian Gulf.

Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani, the commander of the Naval Forces of the Army and the IRGC, who is in Bushehr, announced this in an interview with the Central News Bureau. He said: The Victory-4 maneuvers will be carried out to maintain the battle capability of the forces for the defense of the sea borders, conduct practical tests in the use of modern equipment, transfer expertise, and evaluate coordination between the Armed Forces, particularly the Naval Forces of the Army and IRGC. Some 36,000 personnel of the six forces—that is, the Naval, Air, and Ground Forces of the Army and the IRGC respectively—accompanied by 80 heavy ships, 100 fast boats, and 25 helicopters will participate in the maneuvers.

The commander of the Naval Forces of the Army and IRGC added: The Victory-4 maneuvers will be implemented in seven stages over a 10- day period and in 14,000 square miles of the waters of the Persian Gulf. Various missiles will be used for the first time during the maneuvers. In order to maintain the combat capacity and preparation of the forces in the current year, we intend to hold 35 maneuvers in the waters of the Persian Gulf.

Pointing out that a number of submarines will be joining our country's naval fleet and that some Western countries have carried out poisoned propaganda in this regard, Rear Admiral Shamkhani said that at the moment three American and British submarines are in the Persian Gulf. Western countries, particularly America, intend to carry out 75 maneuvers in the Persian Gulf this year, with the intention of safeguarding their interests in the region.

He added that the submarines belonging to the Naval Forces of the Army and IRGC will be participating in the Victory-4 maneuvers and that the evaluation of the forces in the surface and underwater operations will be one of the characteristics of the maneuvers.

## Iraqi Kurds Urged To Foil Regime Attacks

*NC2504155093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 24 Apr 93*

["Text" of statement issued by the Democratic Party of Kordestan, DPK, in Iran addressed to "popular organizations" in Iraqi Kurdistan; date not given—recorded]

[Text] A call to all the popular organizations in Iraqi Kurdistan: Revolutionary greetings to you. As we announced in the 14 March statement by the DPK Political Bureau in Iran, the Islamic Republic is preparing to carry out an extensive attack on the Iranian-Iraqi border areas.

Ostensibly, the objective of the clerics' regime is to suppress the DPK and other Iranian opposition organizations. It is no secret that the trench in which the struggle between the Iranian Government forces and the Iranian Kordish revolutionaries is being waged is inside Iranian Kordestan. The areas the Iranian regime is planning to attack are merely a few bases behind the fronts that house your Iranian Kordish brothers and sisters, who have fled from the clutches of the tyranny and oppression of the mercenary lackeys of the regime and have taken up residence in the border areas of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Therefore, Iran intends to commit a major crime against women, children, elderly, and ailing and wounded Iranian Kords through this onslaught in the same manner it used when it planted a bomb in a DPK minibus in 1370 [year beginning 21 March 1991] and bombed Azadi Hospital in Esfand [20 February-20 March].

In addition, the Iranian Armed Forces cross international borders and attack the recently populated villages of Iraqi Kurdistan. They seek to disrupt life there so that Kurdistan can never enjoy happiness and prosperity.

This attack is a blatant violation of international norms and regulations and deliberately ignores the UN resolutions.

Therefore, the DPK of Iran once again addresses you and calls for cooperation, solidarity, and support. When DPK leader Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi, who will always be alive in our memory, was assassinated some months ago, you expressed fervent nationalist sentiments and you affirmed the high level of your national awareness in the

best and proudest manner. You proved to the Islamic regime that even if the DPK had lost Dr. Sharafkandi, millions of Kurds were still behind the party, which is the greatest investment in the course of the DPK's freedom-seeking struggle. Let history boast of the solidarity between you and the Iranian Kords. Let the malicious enemy realize that the Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan will not permit the Kords in Iranian Kordestan to be massacred on its soil and will not allow its land to be subjected to aggression and usurpation by a foreign army.

O popular organizations, representatives of workers, farmers, women, students, teachers, lawyers, youth, tradesmen, and all other strata of Kurdish society! Raise your voices against this plot being hatched by the clerical regime; issue statements declaring your support for the Iranian Kordish revolutionaries; stage demonstrations and gatherings; submit statements to the UN offices and other international organizations. Call for foiling this plot by the Islamic Republic, denounce the attack on your homeland, and do not permit the gains of decades of struggle, sacrifice, tears, and blood of the offspring of the Kordish people come to naught.

The Iranian regime has asked the residents of the border region to evacuate several kilometers from this area to clear a path for the aggressive forces' pillage. Take a stand against this and tell the residents to increase their numbers in their villages and tend to their fields and orchards more than ever before. Do something so that Kurdistan—contrary to the enemies' wishes—can remain a heaven on earth.

O comrades in the path of our struggle! We have faith in your compassion, and we are hopeful of your support. We are thankful for your assistance.

### 'Regime' Declares Martial Law, Curfew in Marivan

*NC2604094893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] According to a report from Marivan, the regime declared martial law there a while ago. People are banned from coming out on the streets after sunset. Gatherings of three or more people have been banned.

A recent report from the party committee of precinct number one in southern Kordestan says a bomb exploded near a resistance base near the Marivan military police station building of the 28th infantry division in Kordestan and the municipality building late on 20 April.

The sound of the explosion was heard throughout the city and woke people up. As a result of the explosion, the anti-human enemy sustained heavy losses and casualties. The report adds that ambulances were seen going to and from the scene of the explosion carrying the wounded to hospitals.

## Pakistan

### New Prime Minister Comments on Current Issues

#### On Privatization, Political Unity

*BK2404151193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Balkh Sher Mazari, has said his government was a government of national unity which would provide clean administration and ensure free and fair elections. He was addressing a news conference at the Governor House in Lahore today. The prime minister listed priorities and policies of his government.

[Begin Mazari recording] I must tell you that my government will try to be absolutely fair, [words indistinct] during the elections and even before that my endeavor will be that my government should be clean and honest. I have strived for this all my life and I will try to do the same now. At any time, if I feel that I cannot reach this goal, I have no hesitation whatsoever to leave.

I believe Sardar Farooq Khan did a better press conference yesterday in which he spelt out the government policy regarding privatization. We are not against privatization. I would like to repeat this government is not against privatization. But we want some transparency. We want that anything which is done should be absolutely above board. It should be absolutely honest and I hope you will agree with me on this. And I am told that there is a propaganda that we have stopped small businessmen from getting loans from the banks. It is not in my policy, it is not in our government's policy to exploit the business community to the best of our ability.

I am happy and proud to say that my government will be a party of unity. I will try and bring about people from every party and try also to accommodate people from different walks of life. Any government which comes, it has its teething problems. And we are being also faced them. But I am quite sure with your help and guidance, Insha Allah [God willing], we will be successful. [end recording]

Replying to various questions, the prime minister said there was no genuine ground for dissolving the provincial assemblies which have been working smoothly. In reply to another question, Mr. Balkh Sher Mazari, said he has directed the provincial governments to protect life and property of the law-abiding citizens.

Regarding accountability of the dismissed government, the prime minister said if any law had been violated, the culprit would not be allowed to go unpunished. In reply to another question, he said a new governor of the Punjab would be appointed in a couple of days.

### On Bhutto, Zardari, Sharif Cases

*BK2404163493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari has reaffirmed that his government will try to give equal treatment and be fair to all, ensure protection to the common man and to provide a clean and honest administration. Addressing a news conference in Lahore today, he said that he has issued instructions to all concerned that he would tolerate no lawlessness. He said that his government is facing some problems, but hoped that they will be overcome. He said that he wants to make the country prosper in order to ensure its progress. He is happy to see that his government represents most of political parties and all walks of life.

In reply a to a question, the prime minister said that elections will be held on 14 July. So far as unfavorable weather conditions are concerned, the government will consider the matter in advance and seek guidance from the media [as heard]. If any problem arises as to the timely holding of election as per schedule, we can find a way out. Otherwise, we will stick to the president's announcement, the prime minister added. He said the Chief Election Commissioner will take necessary steps for conducting the National Assembly elections according to the schedule. The accountability department is working on a permanent basis and it should fulfill its responsibility, the prime minister said.

The prime minister said that no interference will be made in provincial matters. In reply to a question, he said that there will be a new government and a new governor in Punjab. On a question about the possibility of dissolving provincial assemblies, he asked why they should be dissolved if they are functioning in accordance with the law and the Constitution? There is no justification for such action.

The prime minister said that as the finance minister has said earlier his government is not against privatization. But it wants to ensure that the process of privatization is clear and transparent. He said that his government is implementing the public transport scheme and it has not suspended the provision of loans.

In reply to a question about already privatized banks and industrial units, he said that the finance minister will assess and then the federal cabinet will scrutinize the whole matter.

About the presidential references against former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, the caretaker prime minister told a questioner they are pending in courts and the government will act according to the court verdict. In reply to another question, he said that there were 12 cases against Asif Ali Zardari and he has been acquitted in 10 of them, while hearing is continuing for the remaining two. He said that if a person can become a member of the National Assembly and can attend its session, then according to law he can become a minister as well.

In reply to a question about former Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, he said that he will be provided full protocol and protection.

Mir Balkh Sher Mazari said that corrupt and dishonest officers will not be allowed to go. He said that if the former government issued illegal notices for income tax and other duties, they will be reviewed and these notices will immediately be withdrawn.

The prime minister visited the shrine of Hazrat Data Saheb in Lahore today. He offered prayers and later inspected the newly constructed mosque. He was briefed on the details of the under- construction shrine complex. The prime minister arrived in Karachi this afternoon. He was received at the airport by Sindh Governor Mahmud A. Haroon, Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, ministers, advisers and senior civil and military officers.

### Full Protocol for Sharif

*BK2404112293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, has reiterated that his government will try to be absolutely fair to all and ensure full protection to the common man. Addressing a news conference at the Governor House in Lahore this afternoon, he said that it will be his endeavor to provide clean and honest administration. The prime minister said he has issued instructions to all concerned saying that he would tolerate no lawlessness and that the former prime minister would also be provided full protocol and protection.

Replying to a question, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari said that elections will be held on 14th of July as announced by the president. Replying to a question about the banks and industrial units already privatized, the prime minister said that the finance minister will look into it and then the federal cabinet will review the whole matter.

### On Assemblies Issue

*BK2504144093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, has said that Pakistan's march forward into the 21st century requires national consensus and the caretaker national government was striving to provide broad-based consensus. Addressing the Sindh cabinet in Karachi today, the prime minister said that bitterness of the past between the political forces must be removed so that socioeconomic development is not hampered. He said difference of opinion was an integral part of political life but, it should not become the cause of animosity and bitterness. Lauding the efforts of Sindh provincial government for bringing progress and prosperity to its

people, the prime minister said that we will build the nation and provide a better future for our people by working together with mutual understanding and cooperation. Regarding the dissolution of provincial assemblies, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari said it was a constitutional matter and will be dealt with in accordance with the Constitution of the country.

### On Free Economy, July Elections

*BK2604041693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Apr 93*

[Text] Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Balakh Sher Mazari has said his government of national consensus at its first cabinet session has expressed its commitment to the promotion of a free economic environment and the continuation of the market-oriented economic policies. He was addressing the delegations of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Karachi Stock Exchange, and the Federation of Pakistan's Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Karachi yesterday. He said it has always been his belief that if Pakistan is to march along with the developed world, the economic policies of developing countries like Pakistan should not only be free and based on mutual interests but should also reflect the national consensus. The prime minister said we will strengthen the economic reforms even after the general elections. The process of economic development based on a free market-oriented economy will continue. He asked traders not to be misled by anyone.

The prime minister gave a reminder that the policy of deregulation and privatization was started in 1985 and the process of liberalizing the economy through privatization and deregulation and promoting and expanding a free economy was started in December 1988, with the inauguration of the program to bring about fundamentally important changes in the country's economy with the complete support of the international financial institutions. Attributing this program and the entire process to any one person under political exigencies cannot deviate the country from the path of progress. Expressing a national commitment to strengthen the economic reforms, he said his government will ensure that the entire process will be transparent, just, and effective.

The prime minister has made it clear that the next elections will be held on the 14th July as announced. He was talking informally to newsmen during a reception hosted by him in honor of the foreign ministers of member states of the Islamic Conference Organization in Karachi last night.

## Reportage on 'Kidnapped' European Diplomats

### Swap for Tribesmen Demanded

*BK2404090893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0845 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Islamabad, April 24 (AFP)—Pakistan authorities were Saturday negotiating through tribesmen for the release of three European diplomats kidnapped by armed Afghans, officials and diplomatic sources here said.

"We have decided to let the authorities resolve the matter locally," a diplomatic source said, referring to the abductors' demand to swap the diplomats for two tribesmen arrested on arms smuggling charges earlier this month.

Jack Dodds of Britain, Stephan Chalt of Germany and Gert Piening of the Netherlands, all drug liaison officers, were abducted at gun point when they crossed into Afghanistan from southwestern Balochistan province Friday.

Pakistani officials said the three European diplomats were kidnapped at Spin Boldak border town in the southern Afghan province of Qandahar.

Appearing confident of securing their release, Pakistani officials said authorities in Balochistan were trying to reach an "amicable" solution.

They stressed that the kidnappers, believed to be members of Nurzai tribes opposed to Qandahar Governor Gul Aqa, had not demanded any ransom money.

A local newspaper said Mohammed Nabi Nurzai, a commander of dissident Afghan leader Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction, was behind the abduction.

Diplomats here neither confirmed or denied the claim.

Mangal Hussain, a spokesman for Hekmatyar here, said he was not aware of the involvement of any Hezb commander in the abductions.

"We condemn the kidnapping, no matter who is responsible," he added.

Informed sources said negotiations were underway through tribal elders as the involvement of the Qandahar government might not help because of the tribe's political differences with the governor Gul Aqa.

Pakistani officials in the provincial capital Quetta Friday said the three must have entered Afghanistan through secret routes as they had no record of their movement.

An administration official in the border town of Chaman Saturday regretted that the diplomats had left without informing local authorities, as travel by foreigners is restricted in the semi- autonomous tribal territory.

The missing three, all in their 30s, were engaged in anti-drug operations for their respective embassies.

The area is infamous for arms and drug trafficking and clashes have been frequently reported between militias and criminal gangs operating in the region.

A Dutch diplomat said the three men were among a group of seven people who went to Afghanistan. Sources in Quetta said the three diplomats were detained with Pakistani businessman Sardar Saadat Ali, a nephew of former Balochistan governor Muhammed Musa.

The kidnappers spared the group's host Jannat Gul, brother of Gul Aqa sources in Quetta said.

A diplomat said the group were only supposed to go to Quetta on a professional mission, but went on further with Pakistani officials.

The incident followed the abduction of six Chinese engineers and workers in November. They were released 11 days later, alhough there were conflicting reports about whether a ransom was paid.

A government official said in Quetta Thursday that seven Pakistani engineers had been kidnapped and taken across the border by Afghan arms traffickers.

Last month a clash between the border militia and an Afghan gang left 17 people, including two soldiers, dead.

Some 30 militiamen were kidnapped after the incident and taken to Afghanistan.

They were released after negotiations and ransom money was handed over according to reports.

### Afghan Consul Comments

*BK2404172293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] The Afghan consul general based in Quetta has denied a report that three European diplomats were kidnapped by Afghan mojahedin. In a statement, he said these diplomats were taken into custody by the Spin Boldak administration inside Afghanistan on charges of illegal entry into that country and (?unauthorized) activities. He said the diplomats did not possess any travel document from the Pakistan or Afghan Governments. They were [words indistinct] taking photographs of Spin Boldak post and other government buildings before they were taken into custody.

### Islamabad To Free Tribesmen

*BK2504090693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0853 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, April 24 (AFP)—Pakistani authorities have agreed to free two arrested tribesmen to secure release of three European diplomats allegedly kidnapped by an Afghan group, a government official said Sunday.

"We have conveyed this message to the abductors," who are believed to be holding the three drug-liaison officers at the border township of Spin Boldak on the Afghan side, Assistant Commissioner Irfan Ahmed said.

The message was sent on the return of three separate teams which conducted negotiations with the Afghan group involved in the incident, said Ahmed, who is posted at the town of Chaman close to the border.

The two tribesmen whose release had been demanded were arrested by the Pakistani militia last month on gun and drug-running charges.

"We are ready to free them but the kidnappers must release the Europeans first," he said.

The diplomats—identified as Jack Dodds of Britain, Gert Piening of the Netherlands and Stephan Elhert of Germany—went missing Friday after they entered Afghanistan from Pakistani Balochistan on an unexplained trip.

Ahmed maintained that the diplomats were kidnapped, in contrast to a claim made by Afghan Consul General Haji Abdul Khaliq here Saturday that Afghan security forces had arrested the trio for illegal entry.

Khaliq said the three crossed into southern Qandahar Province without permission and were found "indulging in photography," adding that they would be freed after completion of investigations.

Sources here said an Afghan group from the Nurzai tribe was involved in the incident.

A Pakistani companion of the diplomats was also in the custody of the Afghans, sources here said.

He was identified as Sardar Saadat Ali, a newphew of former Balochistan governor Muhammad Musa.

According to Pakistani officials the diplomats must have entered Afghanistan through a secret route as they had no record of their movement.

### Release Expected 'Tonight or Tomorrow'

*BK2504143893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Three Pakistan-based Western diplomats detained in south Afghanistan are expected to be released either tonight or tomorrow morning. The Afghan consul general, Haji Abdul Khaliq, told DPA in Quetta that a jerga [delegation] of the region's consultative assembly is on the way to Spin Boldak to secure the release of the British, German and Dutch diplomats detained for illegal entry into Afghanistan.

## Sharif Arrives in Karachi; Brawl With Police

*BK2404153293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Former Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif arrived in Karachi today where he was welcomed by his supporters. Later, a minor scuffle occurred between his supporters and police when he, accompanied by his supporters, was going toward the tomb of Jinnah.

### Sharif Comments on Violence

*BK2504030893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Addressing a gathering at the mausoleum of Great Leader Muhammad Ali Jihnna in Karachi yesterday, former Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that he will continue his struggle in the larger good of the country. He claimed that the Pakistan Muslim League is the party of the entire nation.

Speaking at a gathering of businessmen and industrialists in Karachi, Nawaz Sharif criticized the dissolution of the National Assembly.

A press note issued by the district magistrate of Karachi East says that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif Group, Sindh, had applied for a permission to organize a rally and establish reception camps on the occasion of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to Karachi yesterday. The civilian authorities had informed them that permission cannot be granted to them because of the enforcement of the Section 144 [banning assembly of more than four persons at one place] in Karachi preceding the upcoming conference of the Islamic Conference Organization. In spite of that, the press note adds, they organized a rally whose participants desecrated the sanctity of Jinnah's mausoleum by objectionable speeches and slogans. The irate mob set a vehicle on fire at (?Nursery). Cases have been registered under the relevant sections of the law, arrests have been made, and the police are investigating the incidents.

### Supporters Attack Sindh Minister

*BK2504042893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] In Pakistan, the chief minister of Sindh Province, Mr. Muzaffar Hussain Shah, was injured when angry supporters of the former prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, attacked his car in Karachi yesterday. The crowd pulled Mr. Shah out of the car and attacked him. Police opened fire and escorted the chief minister away. His car was burned by the mob.

Meanwhile, the two major alliances—the People's Democratic Alliance and the National Democratic Alliance—are meeting today to decide on their continuance in the caretaker government.

### Leghari Given Foreign Affairs Slot 'Temporarily'

*BK2404102993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 24 Apr 93 p 1*

[Text] Islamabad—The care-taker Federal Finance Minister, Sardar Farooq Ahmed Leghari, has been assigned the portfolio of foreign affairs temporarily. Leghari will hold the office till a foreign minister is sworn in.

Foreign Secretary Shahryar M. Khan briefed Farooq Leghari on the forthcoming foreign ministers conference in Karachi.

### Border Security Tightened Following Dissolution

*BK2504100893 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 25 Apr 93 p 1*

[Text] Mirpukhas—Following change of federal government, security arrangments in border areas have been tightened and army and rangers were alerted in desert border areas.

According to infomation received from border areas, further contingents of law enforcement agencies have been sent to rural and urban areas of Sindh to strengthen law and order in the province.

### Foreign Ministry Statement on Indian Hijackings

*BK2504013293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] The Indian Airlines jet plane hijacking drama ended at midnight last night when Indian commandos stormed the plane at Amritsar airport and overpowered the lone hijacker who held the plane hostage for 12 hours. According to an Indian Airlines spokesman, the commandos shot and killed the hijacker, and none of the 135 passengers and six crew members was hurt in the operation.

Soon after receiving the news of the plane hijacking yesterday, the Pakistani authorities alerted all civilian airports in the country and asked them not to allow the Indian plane to land anywhere in Pakistan. However, a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad says that Pakistan is surprised at the fact that in the successive incidents of the Indian plane hijackings, the hijackers have allegedly expressed their desire to land in Pakistan. Islamabad suspects that certain elements in India are bent on creating complexities in Indian-Pakistan relations. The statement urges India to take effective steps to check such incidents on its soil, which may create difficulties in bilateral relations.

### New Governor of Punjab Province Appointed

*BK2504031893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] A no-confidence motion against Punjab Chief Minister Ghulam Haider Wyne will be discussed in the provincial assembly today. According to the APP, Chaudhary Altaf Hussain, the former member of the National Assembly from Jhelum, has been appointed the governor of Punjab.

### No-Confidence Motion

*BK2504142693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] The Punjab assembly has passed the no-confidence motion against the chief minister, Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne, by 157 votes. The session of the Punjab assembly began this afternoon. Deputy Speaker Mr. Munawar Ali Ranjha presided over the proceedings

of the house. The chief minister, Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne, was also present in the house. The proceedings began with the recitation from the holy Koran. The ruling Muslim League Parliamentary group has already elected Mr. Mansoor Ahmad Wattoo, as the new leader. Mr. Munawar Ali Ranjha, as the deputy speaker, took up the agenda of today's proceedings and started reading the no-confidence motion. Several supporters of Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne stood up on the point of order which resulted into a pandemonium. Some members forcibly tried to stop the proceedings. They destroyed the mikes of the house and threw chairs toward the deputy speaker. The staff of the assembly tried to protect the deputy speaker and urged the members to be calm. Later, the motion was put to the house. One hundred and fifty seven voted in favor of the motion while 20 voted against it. The Punjab assembly is meeting again at 2100 to elect its new leader.

### Court Hearing on Sharif Petition Set for 8 May

*BK2604084893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Apr 93*

[Text] The Supreme Court in Islamabad today held preliminary hearing into petition filed by the former prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, challenging the dissolution of the National Assembly. The full court after hearing preliminary arguments from the counsels of the petitioner, Mr. Yahya Bakhtiar and Mr. Khalid Anwar, and reply by the attorney general, Mr. Aziz A. Munshi, fixed the 8th of next month for the regular hearing of the petition. The acting chief justice, Mr. Justice Dr. Wasim Hassan Shah, observed that hearing into the main petition along with stay application would begin from that date. He directed the attorney general to file his objections and reply to the main petition within a week and thereafter the counsels for the petitioner could submit a rejoinder within two or three days.

### Widow Demands Autopsy of Army Chief's Body

*BK2504142093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1244 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, April 25 (AFP)—The widow of late army chief Asif Nawaz has demanded an autopsy by foreign experts on the body of her husband who she alleges was poisoned, an inquiry commission was told Sunday.

Nuzhat Nawaz, alleging that her husband died from a poison which shrinks veins, has blamed the previous government of Nawaz Sharif for what she called a political assassination.

Sharif has said he suspected President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who sacked him a week ago, of wanting to implicate him in the case so that he could be arrested.

Counsel for Nuzhat informed the judicial commission that his widow had addressed separate applications for an autopsy to the president and caretaker Prime Minister Blakh Sher Mazari.

She has sought their intervention "for getting the body disinterred respsectfully and expert autopsy by most impartial and qualified personnel from abroad," the commission quoted counsel Shahzad Jehangir as saying.

Nuzhat has not so far lodged a formal complaint with the police regarding her allegation.

Ishaq Khan cited the widow's allegations when he dissolved the National Assembly and dismissed Sharif on April 18, the day the commission held its first sitting.

The commission is required to submit its report to the government within 30 days, although the period is extendable.

The general's death on January 8 was officially attributed to a heart attack.

### NDA Asks New Ministers To Resign

*BK2404123993 Karachi DAWN in English 24 Apr 93 pp 1,16*

[Text] Islamabad, April 23: The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Friday asked its three newly inducted ministers to submit their resignations to the alliance chief and one minister immediately obliged.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the NDA supreme council, presided over by Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, and attended by all the three ministers, Maulana Kauser Nizai, Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi and Mansoor Ahmed Gichki, who instantly wrote his resignation and handed it over to Mr Jatoi. Others said they would do it later.

The resignations would be presented to the President if the provincial assemblies were not dissolved in the next few days.

Abdol Hafeez Pirzada, Secretary-General of the NDA, told a press briefing all the main alliances in the caretaker government—the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance], NDA and IJM [Islami Jamhoori Mazaz]—were unanimous on the dissolution of the provincial assemblies.

"There is a consensus that participation in the interim cabinet would be conditional to dissolution of the provincial assemblies," Pirzada said.

He said all the three NDA ministers had agreed to resign but the supreme council would meet again when Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan returns to Islamabad after the last rites of his wife, who died on Thursday.

"We would set a deadline for the President to dissolve the assemblies and after that we would quit the cabinet," Pirzada said.

The minister who immediately wrote his resignation, Mansoor Gichki told 'Dawn' he had gone to the oath-taking ceremony under the impression that the issue of the provincial assemblies had already been settled.

"The PDA was supposed to finalise it before joining the interim cabinet and when they agreed to come and take oath, I thought it had been done," Gichki said.

Pirzada said an anomalous situation has arisen with the dissolution of the National Assembly and formation of caretaker government at the federal level. Some provincial governments were openly criticising the President's action.

Nine ministers in the Balochistan government have condemned the President's action. The ANP [Awami National Party] has quit the Frontier government. The Punjab government is in confrontation with the Federal Government.

Sindh Chief Minister and his ministers and advisers have already started campaign for by-elections to the provincial assembly seats and even initiated a process of worst kind of rigging.

He said, both in Punjab and Sindh there is an attempt to change faces and install new chief ministers but save the assemblies. Some 170 members of the Punjab Assembly were stuffed in a plane and brought to Islamabad to ensure the President that there would be change of face of Punjab if the assembly is not dissolved." [no open quote as published] It is obvious that the governments of these provinces were not being run in accordance with the Constitution, he added.

He said the country was getting a bad name because of these events. The donors in the World Bank consortium had deferred their meeting and linked aid with holding of free and fair elections.

Pirzada claimed that 60 MPAs [members of provincial assembly] of Sindh have submitted their resignations. Already 24 seats in the 109 member house was vacant due to resignations of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] members.

The Chief Minister had the support of only 20 to 25 members. Pir of Pagara had put up his son as candidate in the by-election to the provincial assembly seat of Badin in an apparent bid to install him as Chief Minister in place of Muzaffar Shah.

He told a questioner that one of the three ministrrs of NDA wrote his resignation at the emergency meeting while the other two also agreed to submit them in Nawabzada. He said all three had gone to the Presidency due to some misunderstanding. The PDA ministers probably also took oath due to some confusion. The PDA, the [word indistinct] and the NDF [National Democratic Front] were in full agreement on the principle of conditional participation in the caretaker government and would pull out if the provincial assemblies were kept intact, he added.

## Interim Cabinet Ministers Profiled

*BK2304152193 Karachi DAWN in English 23 Apr 93 pp 1,11*

[Text] Islamabad, April 22: The caretaker Cabinet of Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari was expanded on Thursday with 15 federal ministers and two advisers taking oaths of their office, providing the first strong indication that differences between the partners of the national government had been ironed out.

The new Cabinet ministers were sworn in by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan after four days of intense negotiations and backroom deals that, at times, came almost to the breaking point with the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] threatening to pull out of the Federal Cabinet.

The final shape of the Cabinet, after the swearing in gave the PPP five, PML [Pakistan Muslim League] four, Ghulam Ishaq Khan's men five, NDA [National Democratic Alliance] two, JUP [Jamiat-e- Ulema-e-Pakistan] two, Pagara League, ANP [Awami National Party] and minorities one cabinet seat each.

It included seven ministers from Punjab, six from Sindh and four each from NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] and Balochistan.

Two advisers were also inducted into the Cabinet while names of two more, one Federal Minister Ali Gauhar Rushdie and one Minister of State Kishan Chand Peruwani were announced but they were not available in the Capital to take oath of office.

Political analysts said the Cabinet was a calculated mixture of diehard anti-Nawaz Sharif activists like Mian Zahid Sarfaraz and Chaudahry Aitzaz as well as heavyweights of their own field like Maulana Kauser Niari, who immediately got the information portfolio, the only one to be announced so far.

Others included almost all the rebel IJI [Eslami Jamhoori Ettehad] back benchers like Tanvirul Hassan Gilani, Arbab Ghulam Rahim and Nur Rahbani Khar but the President's men dominated the list with Zahid Sarfaraz, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, Roedad Khan, Anwar Saifullah and Wazir Jogezai in the forefront.

The portfolios of the new ministers have not been announced but sources said all the economic ministries have been assigned to the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance], including finance, commerce, production, railways and WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority] while the PML would keep interior, communications, social sectors and others.

Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, the surprise inclusion in the Cabinet was likely to become the new production minister that would make him the immediate boss of a serving Lt. General, Chairman of the Pakistan Steel Sabih Qamaruzzaman.

It was a personal triumph for Asif Ali Zardari who was given the oath by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, despite cases pending against him in special courts.

"God is great," a relieved Asif Zardari told newsmen shortly after he was sworn in and returned to his house to meet Benazir Bhutto along with other three PPP ministers, Aftab Khan Sherpao, Chaudhary Aitzaz Ahsan and Fateh Mohammad Hasni.

"Today was a day of victory for principles, otherwise if I had wanted a ministry, I could have come out of jail as a minister," Asif said.

The inside story of how Asif and Aitzaz became federal ministers is not only revealing but reflects the understanding that has now been reached between the President and Benazir Bhutto—arch rivals of the recent months.

Benazir Bhutto had asked for the post of Governor of Sindh to be given either to Asif Ali Zardari of Aitzaz Ahsan but this was not acceptable to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, as that would have been "too much to swallow" for the man on the hill, as one insider put it.

Ms Bhutto kept on negotiating the terms for the whole of Wednesday and by Thursday afternoon it was clear that the President was not going to accept this demand. "So Benazir then gave their names as Federal Ministers provided assurances were given that the provincial assemblies would be dissolved immediately" an insider said.

Since the assemblies could not be dissolved, the President agreed to induct these two—the accused and his lawyer—as Federal Ministers, the source said.

But their induction has now strengthened the belief in the PPP camp that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan meant business and he was sincere in dealing with the PPP.

"If we had any differences, they have been buried today," Mian Zahid Sarfaraz, the President's centre forward in attacking the ousted Prime Minister, told newsmen after taking oath.

Mian Zahid Sarfaraz walked straight into the "Dawn" office after the cabinet meeting, surprising a number of journalists who were working, and said once the portfolios were allocated, "I would ensure that Mian Nawaz Sharif and his ministers faced the due process of law."

The distribution of portfolios has already been done between the main partners in the national government—PPP and PML and according to sources the interior ministry, a vital ministry in the present situation, has to go to an IJI man.

Political analysts believe that none other than Mian Zahid Sarfaraz was tipped as the next strongman as, sources said, most of the new cabinet colleagues were persuading him to become the interior minister and play his role.

Sources said the next round of ministers was to be inducted in the cabinet by Monday in which five more PDA ministers would come in, three from the PPP and two from other PDA parties.

The likely non-PPP candidates were Malik Mohammad Qasim and Khurshid Kasuri while Pervez Ali Shah, the man who negotiated the initial deals with President and his men and brought the IJI dissidents around to talk to the PPP, was being tipped as the Chief Minister of Sindh.

Insiders of the national government said the matter of dissolution of the provincial assemblies was still a "burning question" though president Ghulam Ishaq Khan had acquired some breathing space with PPP putting the maximum pressure in conjunction with other alliances.

The President was understood to have assured that within a few days the three provincial assemblies of NWFP, Balochistan and Sindh would be dissolved, not by force but by persuasion, and the Punjab Assembly would then have to go in sympathy for the rest of the country.

But political analysts were fearing that the moves of Punjab Speaker Manzoor Wartoo may 'backfire' for the President and the caretaker government as at the last moment, the MPAs who are now assembled in Islamabad, most of whom have been loyalists of Nawaz Sharif, could throw a surprise candidate for the chief ministership, after removing Mr. Ghulam Hyder Wyne.

This theory is gaining currency that if a Nawaz-loyalist was elected as the Chief Minister at the last moment, the applecart of the national government could be overturned as then there would be no justification for the assembly to be dissolved.

But Mian Zahid Sarfaraz and others believe that once the portfolios are allotted, the accountability of the Sharif family could immediately begin, not as a campaign of victimisation but through genuine measures.

"This would turn the screw on the former Prime Minister who has so far felt at ease because the new caretaker government had not settled down and had not started to work," sources said.

The induction of Maulana Kauser Niazi as the Information Minister, by a unanimous decision of the entire cabinet, means that the hold of the deposed Prime Minister over the media was posing a serious problem for the caretakers and they wanted to address this subject with a fully competent and experienced man of his field.

The understanding between the PPP and PML to give all the economic portfolios to the PPP would provide the PPP with a major lever to distribute patronage in the three-month election campaign, and some of the PML ministers are not too happy about it, sources said.

Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, who was aspiring to be the caretaker prime minister once again, is now said to be

reconciled to the new setup and has lent his son to come back to the cabinet, preferably with the same portfolio that he left communications.

There is not one ideally suited man in the cabinet to take the important post of foreign minister and in view of the urgency of this portfolio, the slot was likely to go to Mr Hamid Nazir Chatta, now in charge of Communications and Planning.

There are eight new entrants in the cabinet who have hardly any experience of running a ministry. They include the dissident IJI ex-MNAs [Members of National Assembly] Tanvirul Hassan Gilani, Dr Arbab Abdur Rahim, Nur Rabbani Khar, Wazir Ahmed Jogezai, Mansoor Ahmed Gichki, Ahmed Nawaz Bugti and Kishan Chand Peruwani.

The new ministers are:

Maulana Kauser Niazi, Zahid Sarfaraz, Asif Ali Zardari, Chaudhary Aitzaz Ahsan, Anwar Saifullah Khan, Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi, Sardar Wazir Ahmed Jogezai, Aftab Sherpao, Sardar Fateh Mohammad Hasni, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, Sardar Ahmed Nawaz Bugti, Arbab Ghulam Rahim, Mansoor Ahmed Gichki, Makdoom Tanvirul Hassan Gilani and Arbab Jahangir Khan.

Mr. Roedad Khan and Malik Ghulam Mohammad Nur Rabbani Khar took oath as advisers to the Prime Minister.

The portfolios of the new ministers will be announced later.

This raises the strength of the Federal Cabinet to 17. Mr Farooq Ahmed Leghari and Mr Hamid Nasir Chattha had earlier been appointed as ministers. They have been allocated portfolios of Finance and Economic Affairs division and Communications and Planning.

Pir Ali Gauhar Shah Rashdi and Kishin Chand Peruwani will later take oath as federal minister and minister of state, respectively.

## Further on Economic Policies of New Government

*BK2304160193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Excerpts] The economic policy of the new government will aim at ending unwarranted economic restrictions, further reduction of controls and regulations, encouragement of domestic and foreign investments, and promotion of domestic savings. Emphasis will be laid on the market-oriented economy and the private sector will be encouraged to play its full role in the economic development of the country. The main features of the new economic policy were explained by Finance Minister Sardar Farooq Ahmad Leghari at a news conference in Islamabad today. [passage omitted]

Answering a question about imposing an agricultural tax, the finance minister said all possible sectors that create resources will be considered to improve the government's financial status. He added that the most pressing problem of our economy is the worsening budget deficit. The production level this year has declined. This negative trend was created due to the irresponsible attitude displayed by the former government. The production in the agriculture sector has declined. The government could not control the cotton virus which hurt the cotton crop and it did not make any serious efforts to deal with the situation that was created. Similarly, the obstacles to supply of agricultural equipment were not removed. Fertilizer scarcity was reported and it was sold on the black market. The present government will try to rectify this situation.

Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said the government's top responsibility is to hold elections on 14 July and, therefore, the World Bank, aid-to-Pakistan consortium, and other countries have been informed about this. He said Pakistan enjoys excellent relations with major donor agencies and that is why they had agreed to send their directors to Pakistan prior to the aid-to-Pakistan consortium meeting next month.

The finance minister also answered questions regarding the current political situation in the country. About his party's proposal on the supervision of the next elections by the Armed Forces, he said his party believes that Armed Forces supervision will increase credit worthiness of the general elections.

About the dissolution of the provincial assemblies, he said the Pakistan People's Party wants the dissolution of these assemblies because it has always believed that the entire 1990 elections were rigged.

## Forty-One Arabs Depart; 9 Libyans Arrested

*BK2504111493 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 25 Apr 93 p 12*

[Text] Peshawar—Forty-one Arabs arrested during the ongoing operation have left Pakistan for several destinations while dozens more are waiting in wings to fly, following refusal by the government to extend their stay in Pakistan.

Informed sources confided to THE NEWS Saturday that as many as forty one Arab nationals belonging to different countries opted to leave Pakistan till April 21st, following a crackdown on those illegally staying in Pakistan on April 6. Seventy more face similar fate as a petition filed by some Arabs is pending in Peshawar High Court [PHC]. The hearing for the petition is scheduled for April 26.

Among them, 48 are presently detained at a police station in Peshawar which has been declared a sub jail while 13 others are lodged at the Central Jail Peshawar. Nine Libyans, arrested on March 26 in Peshawar for

their alleged involvement in criminal activities including car lifting and possession of illicit arms, will be in the next batch to be extended.

The Arabs are likely to be declared as 'undesirable' and will be asked to leave Pakistan for 'any country of their choice' once the case is decided by the PHC.

A top government official while elaborating the government policy on the issue said that apart from those working with any of the registered Arab Non Government Organisation (NGOs), studying in government colleges, universities (excluding those studying in religious institutions) and diplomats, had been asked to leave Pakistan. "We will be much happy if they leave as soon as possible," remarked the official.

"Believe me most of us now want to leave, we are fed up with Afghans wrangling, all we need is an honourable exit," said an Arab source. The Islamic Coordination Council representing 13 Arab NGOs in Peshawar said it had bought tickets for 41 Arabs presently under police detention in Pakistan.

An Arab associated with an NGO claimed that the concerned government department was refusing to extend or renew their residential permits after receiving a circular form the Ministry of Interior. The officials concerned when contacted however refused to comment.

Meanwhile, the hunger strike by the Arab detainees at the Gorghatry sub jail demanding immediate release entered second day of Saturday. Police and prison officials held talks with a representative of the detainees but an official said the talks ended in a deadlock. "We really can't do anything as the matter is concerned with the interior ministry," he added.

In a related development, the JI [Jamiat Islami] Amir Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad visited the jail to meet the Arab detainees. He later held an hour long meeting with governor NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province], Amir Gulistan Janjua. He also called on the NWFP Chief Minister Mir Afzal Khan and according to a party press release, apart from the prevailing political situation in the country, Qazi also raised the issue of Arabs arrested during the ongoing campaign. The outcome of these talks were not known.

### * Pakistan Deports Arabs to Khartoum

*93WR0217Y London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Apr 93 pp 1 ,4*

[Article by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan in Peshawar and Jamal Isma'il in Islamabad: "Number of Arab 'Afghans' Leave Pakistan for Sudan"]

[Text] Sources of Pakistan Airways have assured AL-HAYAH that a number of Arab deportees have left Pakistan for Khartoum in the past two days, adding that Arab "Afghans" who have chosen their own destinations were eager to make certain that the flights they were taking did not pass through the airspace of some Arab countries and did not make stopovers at their airports for fear of being arrested.

The sources declined to disclose the identities or numbers of those deported. But some Arab Maghreb sources, especially in Algeria and Tunisia, had expressed apprehensions over the transfer of "their Afghans" to Sudan.

Security sources at the Interior Ministry in Peshawar have stressed that the detained Arabs, totaling 98 in number, will not be handed over to their countries' authorities. These sources refused to comment on reports saying that Egypt has asked that 15 of its wanted citizens who had joined the mujahidin ranks during the Soviet occupation be handed over to it. The sources added that a search is under way in Peshawar for a number of those who have been residing in the country illegally and who have disappeared from sight.

At a time when the deportation of Arab "Afghans" has begun at a small scale, informed Arab sources have said that a large number of detainees are still being subjected to lengthy interrogations dealing with the affiliations of each of them and the conditions under which each one came to Pakistan. The sources added that this is being done in an attempt to complete the files pertaining to each of them in preparation to delivering these files to the capitals concerned.

Wa'il Julaydan, a well-known Arab struggler who also goes by the name of Abu-al-Hasan al-Madani, has arrived in Islamabad and held talks with high-ranking Interior Ministry officials. AL-HAYAH has learned that Julaydan will meet today with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan for consultations on how to alleviate pressure on the Arab mujahidin. In a statement after his meetings with officials, Julaydan expressed the opinion that the campaigns to which Arabs are subjected "will incite Arab and Islamic public opinion against Pakistan."

In an exclusive interview with AL-HAYAH, Julaydan has asserted that more than one Pakistani official in Peshawar and Islamabad has failed to justify the campaign to arrest Arabs. He added, "We do not wish to impose ourselves on Pakistan. The Pakistani Government could have done without the bad reputation it has gained at home and abroad as a consequence of these arrests. It should have asked us to leave its territories, and we would not have hesitated to do so. The young Arab men came for the noble cause and sublime objective of helping their Afghan brothers. Some Arab governments censure them for this effort."

Pakistani attorneys sympathetic to the pursued Arabs have submitted to the Higher Court in Peshawar protest memoranda expressing the opinion that the acts of pursuit to which these Arabs are subjected are illegal and in violation of the Constitution. The Jamaat-i-Islami, in the wake of a meeting of its Central Council under the chairmanship of Qazi Hussain Ahmed, has called for a general strike in the country next Friday in protest of the campaign against the Arabs.

Leaders of associations of Muslim ulema, most prominently Sheikh Sami-ul-Haq and Fadl-ul-Rahman, have contacted the head of state to halt the anti-Arab campaign. Meanwhile, a demonstration was staged in Peshawar's streets and included Afghans and Pakistanis working for Arab relief organizations. It raised slogans that read, "Stop the brutality against Islam's ambassadors." Participants in the demonstration were estimated at 500 people, including workers in Arab relief organizations and the Medina Orphanage, and employees of Arab hospitals in Peshawar.

Citing a number of Yemeni, Sudanese, and Jordanian detainees, Arab sources have said that these detainees were informed the night before last that they have to get ready to leave from their detention centers directly to the airport where they will be given tickets at government expense if they cannot purchase them on their own.

The Higher Court has inquired of police departments about the legal justification for the arrests. Islamabad sources expect that the deportation decrees will be halted today now that leaders of the Afridi tribes, who live on the Afghan-Pakistani border, have protested, emphasizing to the authorities that the Arabs are guests of the tribes.

AL-HAYAH has learned that Mir Afdal Khan, head of the Peshawar local government, has informed the Jamaat-i-Islami leader that his government has nothing to do with the detention orders which were issued by Pakistan's prime minister. This is in conflict with a statement by Interior Minister Shujat Hussain who has said that the central government (Islamabad) has nothing to do with the detention orders.

### * Egypt, Pakistan Discuss Egyptian 'Afghans'

*93WR0217Z London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Apr 93 pp 1, 4*

[Article by Jamal Isma'il: "Pakistan Prepared To Extradite Wanted Egyptian 'Afghans'"]

[Text] Islamabad, Cairo—Munir Akram, spokesman of the Pakistani Foreign Ministry, has assured AL-HAYAH that a joint Egyptian-Pakistani committee, which was formed in wake of President Husni Mubarak's meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Bonn nearly two weeks ago, will discuss closing the files of wanted Egyptians who are residing in Pakistan. He emphasized that those whom Egypt insists must be extradited have to be individuals who have violated Egypt's laws while residents in Pakistan and not before their arrival in the country.

Meanwhile, Egyptian security sources have said that Egypt has compiled a file including the names of nine wanted individuals against whom the Higher Military Court of Alexandria issued sentences in case No. 392 (state security crimes) in December 1992, namely: Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, Mustafa Ahmad Hamzah, Rifa'i Ahmad Taha, 'Uthman Khalid Ibrahim, Ahmad Mustafa Nuwwarah, Tal'at Muhammad Yasin, and Tal'at Fu'ad Salim, all of whom were sentenced to death. The other two, namely Taha 'Abd-al-Rasul and Husayn al-Sayyid Hamid, were sentenced to 15 years at hard labor.

The sources added that radical leaders wanted for issuing instructions to radicals inside Egypt include Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, a leader of the Islamic Jihad Organization who went to Afghanistan during the Afghan war.

Whereas the same sources have assured AL-HAYAH that Egypt has requested these individuals' files from the Pakistani intelligence, a Pakistani diplomat told REUTERS that his country is prepared to cooperate with Egypt on extradition of the individuals wanted for involvement in acts of violence against the Egyptian Government. This diplomat, whose identity has not been disclosed, added, "Despite the lack of an extradition treaty between the two countries, Pakistan is prepared to cooperate with Egypt if the latter demands their extradition." This diplomat emphasized that his country's government "wants to cooperate to put an end to terrorism and will not permit anybody to use its territories as a staging base for terrorist acts against any other country."

#### Pakistani Foreign Ministry

Commenting on the reports about his country's imminent extradition of the wanted individuals to Egypt, a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman has said, "It must be proven by the courts that those whom Egypt insists must be extradited have violated Egypt's law during their presence in Pakistan and not before their arrival in it." He added that procedures concerning the wanted will be settled by the joint committee which will discuss the cases of the Egyptian 'Afghans,' each case independently. He emphasized that his country will deport Arabs who do not have legal residence permits to their countries if they do not start leaving its territories.

He asserted that Pakistan will not subject those whom it wishes to deport to "mass treatment." He said that these Arabs are divided into three groups: Those who have violated Pakistan's law, those who have violated their country's law while residing in Pakistan, and those who have not violated any law but who have no legal cover for their stay.

He emphasized that Pakistan will deal with these Arabs on the basis of three principles: First, safeguarding Pakistan's interests; second, not undermining the interests of other countries; and, third, observing human rights by permitting each deportee to choose his destination.

At the same time, Babar Malik, press spokesman of the Pakistani Embassy in Cairo, has asserted that there is security cooperation between the two countries, pointing out that President Mubarak and Nawaz Sharif established this cooperation during their meeting in Bonn. But Malik denied that he is aware of Egypt's request for

the extradition of specific individuals who participated in Afghanistan's mojahedin war and who are living in Peshawar or in other Pakistani cities. He pointed out that his country's decision on Arab mujahidin calls for deporting those who are living in Pakistan illegally and does not specify whether the deportees are to be extradited to their countries or deported to a place of their choosing.

He said, "If Egypt submits an official request for the extradition of a number of Egyptians living in Pakistan, we will examine the request and make a decision on it."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, a security source has denied that Egypt has officially requested the extradition of Egyptian radicals living in Pakistan. He said that information has been exchanged regarding the above-mentioned nine elements against whom sentences were issued by Egyptian courts in cases of radicalism and terrorism. He said that these people left for Afghanistan during the war, trained on weapons, and then took part in training other Egyptians who have fled after confrontations with the police.

### Further on Finance Minister's News Conference

*BK2304143893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[Text] The caretaker government will pursue the policy of creating a conducive economic and social environment to attract foreign investment and to encourage private sector. Giving details of the Cabinet's decision, the federal minister for finance and economic affairs, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Leghari, told a news conference in Islamabad today that the Government will further liberalize the economy to enable the private sector to play its role in a big way. He said the process of privatization will be made transparent and common citizens will be encouraged to purchase the shares. He said priorities of the caretaker government of national consensus are to reduce the budget deficit by controlling expenditure and improving revenue collection.

The finance minister said the Government will review public sector projects on the basis of merit before taking any decision. He said efforts will be made to broaden the base of stock market to improve the public share in the investment. He said the government will initiate constant dialogue with the business community and farmers to seek their guidance and would like to institutionalize this process.

Sardar Farooq Ahmd Leghari assured that foreign current accounts will be absolutely safe and there is no thinking whatsoever to impose any control to this effect.

On a question, he said the government would fully honor the commitments made with the international agencies.

### Editorial on Bhutto's 'Dubious Deal' With President

*BK2304150293 Islamabad THE NATION in English 23 Apr 93 p 6*

[Editorial: "Cabinet formation"]

[Text] After some initial difficulties President Ghulam Ishaq has finally managed to put together an expanded caretaker Cabinet. It is intended to be called the 'interim government of national consensus' and its stated purpose is to ensure holding of 'free and fair elections' on time. Balkh Sher Mazari, the President's new man for the job, had been for the last couple of days shuttling between the Presidency and Ms Bhutto's residence, apparently in a bid to finalise his list of Ministers. Even though a seventeen-member Cabinet, including Asif Ali Zardari still under the shadow of various criminal cases, has been sworn in, the new-born allies are yet far from agreeing on the modus operandi for transition to the next polls. The People's Party has been insisting on the dissolution of the Provincial Assemblies as a quid pro quo for power sharing in the interim period and possibly as a prelude to the fostering of some kind of anti-Nawaz Sharif electoral alliance, while the President's men are busy consolidating their support base among the sitting MPA's [member of provincial assembly]. Given the fact that there has been no real change of heart on either side and both the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] dissidents are working at cross-purposes, the possibility of their 'marriage of convenience' falling apart before it is consummated cannot be ruled out.

Benazir Bhutto is already under constant pressure to offer a tenable alibi for what has been seen as a singular act of political opportunism, or, as the veteran PPP loyalist Yahya Bakhtiar put it, 'blatant betrayal of democracy and the people', and if she cannot even manage to extract a bargain that could give her party the chance to fill the power vacuum created by the ouster of Nawaz Sharif, she would be deemed to have been taken for a ride by the President. Needless to say, no principles are involved in the unscrupulous power game that is being played to settle scores with the ousted Prime Minister, and unless Benazir Bhutto can convince her party that she has secured the lion's share in the interim set- up, she can hardly gain any politcial mileage out of her dubious deal with the President. Obviously, there is no love lost between the President and the PPP, and both are trying to have the better of each other in their expedient relationship. The President is above all concerned about securing his re-election, but is also apprehensive of giving the PPP a free hand to redeem its truncated support base. Thus, there is a limit to which the PPP can pressure the President into giving concessions, particularly in the wake of his success in capturing the provincial legislatures. The Federal Cabinet will be sooner or later finalised, as there are plenty of aspirants for a three month stint in Islamabad, but how far the Caretaker Prime Minister will live up to his promise of

ensuring free and fair elections is anybody's guess, because all the prospective partners in the new coalition would be vying for a vantage point to influence the electoral process.

### Minister on Media, Dissolution of Provincial Assemblies

*BK2404115993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Maulana Kausar Niazi, minister for information and broadcasting, has said that the government is committed to the freedom of press and to restore the credibility of the electronic media. He was addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon. The information minister emphasized that radio and television are trusts of the people and they must not be used for propaganda objectives or personal publicity. The job of the electronic media is to tell the truth. I have instructed the government media to be the first to report on news and events, be it national or international developments. He said that the opposition leaders should also be covered in accordance with their status and position.

Referring to the current political situation, the minister of information and broadcasting said that the credit in this regard goes to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan who, for the first time in the history of Pakistan, formed a national government which included all the three major political alliances and all groups of the Pakistan Muslim League, except one.

Discussing the events which led to the dissolution of the National Assembly, the information minister said that after the former prime minister's address to the nation in which the chief executive of the country leveled allegations against the head of state, it was unavoidable because it became impossible to run the [words indistinct] after these allegations. He said that the president's action will now help in removing bitterness and confrontation in politics.

Answering a question on the demand for dissolution of provincial assemblies, he said that this a just demand, but the president is now facing constitutional difficulties. However, appropriate action will be taken whenever a constitutional basis has been found.

## Sri Lanka

### Gunman Assassinates Sri Lanka Opposition Leader

*BK2404005293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1923 GMT 23 Apr 93*

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, April 24 (AFP)—A gunman assassinated Sri Lanka's former national security minister and top opposition leader Lalith Athlathmudali as he campaigned here Friday, party workers said.

Athulathmudali, 56, was shot at close range by a lone gunman and died during emergency surgery to remove bullets from his chest and abdomen, party workers said as dozens of weeping supporters crowded his Colombo home.

"Our god is no more. There is no point in our living," supporters weeped at Athulathmudali's home as the news of his death was conveyed to the family by workers who kept up a vigil outside the Colombo General Hospital.

The Sri Lankan capital was quiet late Friday but political sources feared there could be a backlash to Athulathmudali's death as the news spread on Saturday morning.

There have been no reports of arrests in connection with the shooting.

A worker who attended Athulathmudali's public meeting said the shots were fired from a crowded area that was poorly lit. There was panic immediately after the shooting.

Parliamentary opposition leader Sirima Bandaranaike visited the hospital morgue to see the body, her aides said adding that several opposition MPs had rushed to hospital on hearing news of the shooting.

The Oxford and Harvard-educated politician was to contest the chief ministership in the western provincial council which governs the area of Colombo. Elections were due to take place on May 17.

The former minister was a key figure in the 1991 failed bid to impeach President Ranasinghe Premadasa and was later sacked from the ruling United National Party.

Athulathmudali together with two other senior ministers of Premadasa's United National Party (UNP) formed the breakaway DUNF which has emerged as a serious challenge to established political parties in Sri Lanka.

He was national security minister from 1984 to 1988 when Premadasa came to power and clipped his wings, making him agricultural minister before further downgrading him to the education portfolio.

In 1987, Athulathmudali narrowly escaped death when a grenade exploded under his chair during a parliamentary meeting chaired by former President Junius Jayewardene.

Athulathmudali becomes the first top opposition figure to be assassinated since the 1988 slaying of opposition presidential candidate Vijaya Kumaratunga.

### President Expresses 'Shock'

*BK2404051893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0422 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Colombo, April 24 (AFP)—Sri Lanakan President Ranasinghe Premadasa expressed shock and sadness

Saturday at the assassination of his arch rival and former national security minister Lalith Athulathmudali.

In a four-paragraph statement, Premadasa vowed to track down Athulathmudali's assassin and said he had directed the authorities to investigate fully the circumstances of the shooting during an election meeting here late Friday.

"This is a cowardly and gruesome act which sould be condemned by every right thinking person ... It is high time that all democratic forces join hands to eliminate such dastardly acts," Premadasa said.

Athulathmudali, 56, the leader of the Democratic United National Front (DUNF) was campaigning for his candidature as chief minister of the Western provincial council, which covers the area of the capital Colombo, when he was shot.

The former minister was a key figure in the 1991 failed bid to impeach Premadasa and was later sacked from the ruling United National Party (UNP).

Together with two other senior ministers of Premadasa's UNP, he then formed the breakaway DUNF which has emerged as a serious challenge to established political parties in Sri Lanka.

Athulathmudali had announced that there were several threats against his life during the impeachment drama but authorities turned down his requests for police protection.

### Opposition Party Blames Government

*BK2404052693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0504 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Colombo, April 24 (AFP)—The opposition party of slain former national security minister Lalith Athulathmudali on Saturday accused the government of assassinating its leader during his election campaign.

Athulathmudali's Democratic United National Front (DUNF) said: "It was a politically motivated killer squad at the instigation of the government" that was responsible for the Friday night shooting of the opposition leader here.

Party spokesman Gamini Dissanayake said they had no reason to believe that the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas were responsible.

### Investigation Under Way

*BK2404123293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Apr 93*

[Text] Sri Lanka has sought the help of Scotland Yard in investigating the killing of former senior cabinet minister, Lalith Athulathmudali. Mr. Athulathmudali was shot dead and fatally wounded by an unidentified assailant while addressing a meeting in Kirulapone last night.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa has directed the defense secretary to take help from Scotland Yard, the premier investigative division of the London Metropolitan Police. The inspector general of police has welcomed this move. The president has also directed the Foreign Ministry to request and arrange for the arrival of the detectives from Scotland Yard at the earliest.

Arrangements have been made in this connection with the British High Commission in Colombo and the Sri Lanka High Commission in London. The Scotland Yard team will work with the Sri Lanka police who have begun a probe into the assassination.

According to police, Mr. Athulathmuladi was shot at by a lone gunman last evening at an election rally at Kirulapone and was rushed to the General Hospital Colombo where he succumbed to his injuries. He was 67 at the time of his death.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa in a condolence message said he was deeply shocked and saddened to learn that Mr. Athulathmuladi has been shot while attending a meeting at Kirulapone and that he had succumbed to his injuries. He described it as a cowardly and brutal act which should be condemned by every right thinking person. The president said that he has directed the authorities concerned to investigate fully to the circumstances of this killing. The government will use all the resources at its command to track down the assailant, he said.

The president's message went on to say that during the last four years it has been the endeavour of the government to restore peace and discipline while safeguarding the democratic way of life. Our country has gone through the bitter experiences and it is high time that all the democratic forces join hands to eliminate such dastardly acts.

The president and Mrs. Premadasa conveyed their heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Athulathmuladi and members of the bereaved family. Meanwhile, the president has directed the defense secretary, General Cyril Ranatunge, to obtain the assistance of Scotland Yard to investigate the assassination.

### Assassin Identified

*BK2504121893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Appayya Balakrishnan of Kokkuvil, whose bullet-riddled body was found yesterday morning at Kirilipane, was identified as the killer of DUNF [Democratic United National Front] leader Lalith Athulathmudali, by the DUNF Kirilipane organizer, A.K. Pemadasa, who presided at Friday's meeting. Mr. Athulathmudali was shot at point blank range at this meeting. The DUNF

organizer told the police officers and local and foreign journalists, who were present at the scene where Balakrishnan's body was found, that he was positive from the face and dress that this was the man who shot his leader. He said the first shot hit an aerated water bottle on the stage and the next shot hit Mr. Athulathmudali. He added that from the flood lights and other lights, the assassin's face was clearly visible to him. He was certain that this man Balakrishnan was the killer. Police found the body of Balakrishnan close to the venue of the meeting. A REUTER report quoted police saying that there was foam around the mouth of Balakrishnan indicating that the man may have taken cyanide, an act typical of Tigers [LTTE—Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. The Coroner's court inquest last morning established that the man known as Appiah Balakrishnan had died of cyanide poisoning.

### LTTE Denies Involvement

*BK2504122693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0741 GMT 25 Apr 93*

[Text] Colombo, April 25 (AFP)—Tamil Tiger guerrillas on Sunday denied assassinating Sri Lanka's opposition leader Lalith Athulathmudali as thousands of mourners poured into the capital Colombo amid a nationwide security alert.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said it "denied categorically" the government's "unwarranted accusation involving the LTTE in the cold blooded murder" of Athulathmudali, who was once national security minister.

"It is obvious to the people who has masterminded this murder of his political opponent, the brief statement from the LTTE's London office said, pointing a finger at the government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Athulathmudali's Democratic United National Front (DUNF) was the first to accuse the government of Friday's assassination but police said they believd it was the work of the LTTE.

Police have, however, not given the basis for their claim except to say that the assassin was a Tamil, armed with a pistol and a grenade and had taken cyanide like many Tiger cadres are known to have done before.

Police found the bullet-riddled body of a young man near the public park where Athulathmudali was gunned down and said it was the assassin who was also hit when the politician's bodyguard fired back.

Athulathmudali's would-be successor, Gamini Dissanayake, told reporters that he had no reason to believe the LTTE was behind the slaying although Athulathmudali led a military drive against them from 1984 to 1989.

"But even if it is so, in Colombo, the LTTE functions only under the patronage of the government," Dissanayake said, adding they repeatedly asked police to withdraw weapons issued to pro-government politicians.

President Premadasa, in an apparent response to the DUNF claims, told a party meeting Saturday that his United National Party (UNP) "did not believe in slaughter of animals leave alone killing people."

"But it is the UNP which is always being blamed whenever some personality was killed," the English-langauge Sunday Island quoted the president as saying.

Security forces intensified Sunday mobile patrols and took up positions outside key state institutions and vulnerable spots after a spate of overnight stone-throwing attacks on homes of government politicians, officials said.

Mourners flooded the streets throughout the night awaiting their turn to enter Athulathmudali's residence from where he led a failed impeachment bid against Premadasa in August 1991.

White flags were put up across the country as a sign of respect for the slain leader and Sunday newspapers devoted their entire front pages to the assassination which has shocked the country's political establishment.

Premadasa moved to defuse tension in the country by inviting Britain's Scotland Yard detectives who are expected to arrive here Monday and offered a reward of five million rupees (100,000 dollars) for information.

Athulathmudali's widow, Srimani, in a brief statement appealed for calm. "Lalith would have expected us to remain collected and dignified. That would be the biggest respect one could pay him," the widow said.

Off-duty soldiers at a main army cantonment outside the city have been ordered to remain in camp so that they could be deployed in an emergency, defence sources said.

Elections Commissioner Chandrananda de Silva called for a police review of security for candidates at the May 17 provincial council elections and said he felt more protection should be given.